

Intro

- ~ “Don't tell your problems to people: Eighty percent don't care; and the other twenty percent are glad you have them.” Lou Holtz
- ~ Problems are something we all encounter
- ~ I can't control what happens to me but I can control how I respond
- ~ We have a FedEx drive that delivers where I work and he says this all the time.
- ~ I've shared how my mother's car needed a new engine and it was replaced. But then a few weeks ago she called me almost in tears because the car had been stalling out if she sat idling too long at a traffic light.
- ~ I began to think about how we should deal with problems when they arise

Outline

- 1 Prayer
- 2 Patience
- 3 Kindness
- 4 Faith
- 5 Opportunity for Growth

Principles for Problems**1 Prayer (v12)**

- ~ 2065 (erotao) [used 59 times] to request: - ask, beseech, desire, intreat
- ~ Jn 17- 4 times Jesus in his high priestly prayer prays for the church. He's beseeching the Father on our behalf
- ~ 4336 (proseuchomai) [used 90 times] to pray to God, that is, supplicate, worship
- ~ Prayer is the starting point
- ~ Prayer demonstrates trust in God, need for guidance and wisdom. It says to God we don't know everything and I need your help
- ~ Even Jesus prayed to the Father
- ~ Prayer recognizes that we need help, we're not in control
- ~ Prayer is asking for God's help and involvement
- ~ Many times we have not because we ask not
- ~ It's pride not to pray
- ~ James 1:8 If any man lack wisdom let him ask of God (context is trials in Js 1:8)
- ~ We pray for wisdom in trials and tribulations
- ~ Wisdom from God aids in how to approach problems
- ~ Also in this idea of prayer is worship of God
- ~ Seeking God for his guidance, blessing, and wisdom is done with the spirit of worship
- ~ May we depend on the Lord and not our own strength
- ~ *Col 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving*
- ~ *Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.*
- ~ As we continue in prayer we're thankful

2 Patience (v12 – patient in tribulation)

- ~ Patience keeps us from rushing in and doing the wrong thing, reacting without thinking
- ~ Patience lets cooler heads prevail
- ~ Luke 21:19 in Patience (5281 hupomone-cheerful endurance) possess your souls
- ~ Rom 15:4 Through patience (5281 hupomone-cheerful endurance) and comfort of the scriptures we have hope
- ~ Heb 10:36 we have need of patience after we've done the will of God
- ~ James 1:3,4 (2 Times) 5281 hupomone) cheerful endurance, constancy,
- ~ James 1:12 blessed is the man that endures (5278 huomeno) to abide under, bear, undergo
- ~ Patience can wait on God instead of making things worse
- ~ Patience is allowing God to work
- ~ William Newell “Patience in trial is the only path to our perfecting”

3 Kindness (v10 kindly affectioned)

- ~ In v9,10 Paul uses the three different types of love in the NT (love=agape; kindly affectioned=philostorgos (the kind of love a parent has for children, family love and brotherly love=Philadelphia (love for the brethren)
- ~ Notice the kind of situations are followed up later in this chapter – persecution (v14), evil (v17)
- ~ When we're stressed, pushed and angered were tempted to mistreat people
- ~ It might even be within our right to lay down the law – but we can even be a witness in how we handle things
- ~ This deals with as problems arise & we work through problems we're kind to people along the way
- ~ Phil 4:5 let your moderation be known to all men
 - Moderation (epieikes) restraint on the passions, general soberness of living, being free from all excesses
- ~ Barclay "epieikeia - knows when not to apply the strict letter of the law, when to relax justice and introduce mercy. "
- ~ James 3:17 Wisdom from above is gentle (1933 epieikes)
- ~ this word epieikes is translated patient in contrast to being a brawler (1 Tim 3:3-the pastor should be patient and not a brawler; Titus 3:1,2-Titus was to remind the people to be patient and not be brawlers)
- ~ 2 Cor 13:4 Love is long and is kind
- ~ Eph 4:32 Be kind one to another
- ~ There is never any excuse to not treat people with kindness
- ~ The instances in which we need to bring the law are fewer than we think
- ~ Treating people with respect will go a long way toward getting things corrected than treating people like trash

4 Faith

- ~ Faith lets God be in control
- ~ Faith recognizes God's sovereign hand controlling the universe
- ~ Faith can trust God for the results and outcome
- ~ Because I can trust God I can go forward with joy and faith and trust God's providence is on my side – and it is
- ~ George Muller fed his orphaned children by faith. He believed God for feed them
- ~ *Rom 14:23 whatsoever is not of faith is sin*
- ~ *Heb 11:1 Faith is the substance (substructure) of things hoped for, the evidence (evidence) of things not yet seen*
- ~ *Heb 11:6 without faith it's impossible to please God*
- ~ Trust means just that – trust
- ~ Vengeance belonging to God means God is saying to us he'll handle the persecutor – we can trust him

5 Opportunity for Growth

- ~ 2 Cor 4:15-18 Our trouble (v8,9) leads to an eternal weigh of glory
- ~ The difficulty provides an opportunity for us to apply the word of God and grow
- ~ Our muscles grow when they are pushed
- ~ Muscles don't grow by not being used. We grow more when there's resistance to us
- ~ We're not going to lose our sanctification
- ~ We must determine and purpose we're not going to act like the devils cousin
- ~ We don't want to deal with problems in such a way that we hinder
- ~ Every problem we face is an opportunity to apply the Word
- ~ Maybe I have to learn patience, to love people, not to rip people's heads off, not soon angry
- ~ This particular trial may be the opportunity to learn and apply the word of God in that situation
- ~ This helps me see the trial as useful in my life

Conclusion

Joseph and Daniel exemplify all of these qualities

- ~ Joseph – he had patience to wait on God, he was kind to those around him even though he was treated ruthlessly, He trusted in God to direct his future based on the dreams God gave him as a youth, All of this trouble prepared him for the future usefulness
- ~ Daniel – Daniel prayed and prayed. He was a man of prayer, He was patient in this situation of captivity he was put in by the hand of God, He was kind and a humble servant, He could trust God for God's plan, He grew spiritually through all the trials
- ~ Principles for problems are 1 Prayer 2 Patience 3 Kindness 4 Faith 5 Growth