

WHY AM I HAVING SO MANY PROBLEMS?

Clearing Up The Confusion - Part 3 of 4

James 1:2-6 (Ph) "When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realize they come to test your faith, and to produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed, and you will become a person of mature character (and) integrity with no weak spots."

I. FOUR "FACTS OF LIFE"

1. PROBLEMS ARE INEVITABLE.

"When all kinds of trials (come) ..."

2. PROBLEMS ARE VARIABLE.

"When all kinds of trials..."

3. PROBLEMS ARE UNPREDICTABLE.

"When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives, don't resent them as intruders ..."

4. PROBLEMS ARE PURPOSEFUL.

"Realize they come ... to produce in you ..."

II. GOD'S PURPOSES FOR PROBLEMS

1. PROBLEMS TEST MY FAITH

"Realize that they come to test your faith..."

2. PROBLEMS DEVELOP MY ENDURANCE.

"... and to produce in you the quality of endurance."

3. PROBLEMS MATURE MY CHARACTER.

"But let the process go on until ... you become men of mature character (and) integrity with no weak spots."

III. HOW TO RESPOND TO YOUR PROBLEMS

1. REJOICE

(NIV) "Consider it pure joy when you face trials..."

Psalm 34:1 "I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise will be continually in my mouth."

2. REQUEST

James 1:7 (Ph) "If, in the process, any of you doesn't know how to meet any particular problem, you only have to ask God -- who gives generously to all men without making them feel guilty -- and you may be sure that the necessary wisdom will be given to you."

3. RELAX

James 1:8 (Ph) "But you must ask in sincere faith, without secret doubts..."

James 1:12 "Blessed [happy] is the man who perseveres under trial [in other words, keeps on keeping on] because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him."