

JAMES: FAITH WORKS / RIGHTEOUSNESS IN OVERALLS #3

“Practical Help for the Hurting” (James 1:2-4)

Mission Bible Fellowship (March 10, 2019) Pastor Larry Nelson

Introduction:

1. Please open your Bibles again this morning to James Chapter 1.

James 1:1-4

- 1 *James, a **(slave)** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.*
 - 2 *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,*
 - 3 *knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.*
 - 4 *And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*
2. The Book of James gives us a clear picture of what Christian behavior is supposed to look like, where **genuine** saving faith is evidenced by a life, filled with **God-honoring, others-loving** good works.
 3. Previously, I have laid out two foundation stones, upon which the rest of James, **and** the whole of our Christian lives are to be built upon:
 - I. **The Lordship of Christ** (1:1a), Dealing with Master/slave relationship
 - II. **The Reality of Suffering** (1:1b), Which is part of every Christian’s life.
 - A. Previously, I stressed that the absolutely sovereign and loving, God of the Bible, **NEVER WASTES SUFFERING!**, and therefore, we are commanded to receive His joy as we are going through it.
 1. And as you will remember, “joy” has nothing to do with our feelings or emotions.
 2. According to the Bible, joy is the settled understanding and trust in the fact that, **OUR GOD NEVER WASTES SUFFERING!**

TRANS> And this is where I want to pick up this morning as we study:

III. **The Purpose of Suffering** or **Practical Help for the Hurting** (:2-4)

James 1:2-4

- 2 *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,*
 - 3 *knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.*
 - 4 *And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*
- A. Suffering “... *produces endurance*,” <hu - po - mō - ne>, [/] _{— —} which is often translated as “*patience*.”
 1. And according to this text, it is through the testings and trials of life that of our faith learns to **endure**.

2. Since God is absolutely sovereign over the trials that come into our lives, then we are commanded here to develop **endurance**, so that we can eventually understand, what He wants us to learn.

2 Thessalonians 1:4 *“... we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your **perseverance** and **faith** in the midst of all your **persecutions** and **afflictions** which you **endure**.”*

1 Corinthians 10:13 *“No temptation (or trial) has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to **endure** it.”*

B. Simply put, genuine faith **endures**, it **perseveres**, and it **never** gives up!

James 1:4 *And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

1. Perfect, as it is used here, has nothing to do with what we would call perfection.
2. Perfect, <tel e os> means to be spiritually mature, or Christ-like in our thinking and behaviors.

1 Corinthians 13:11 *When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.*

3. Children tend to lack endurance., They get their feelings hurt, they give up easy, and they are easily distracted.
 - a. How many times have we called to one of our kids from across the yard, and they come running, “DADDY!” only to be distracted by a flower, or a bug, or a pile of used dog food.
 - b. But James is exhorting us as Christians, to **grow up**, our **thinking**, and our **behaviors!**
4. So as we consider the James context of suffering, and our need to mature in our Christian faith, through our trials, here’s your *Nelsonism* for the day.
 - a. *“The problems of life will make you either **bitter** or **better**, and you choose which one it will be.” (REPEAT)*
 - b. I had a friend in college, whose dad used to tell him, *“Son, most people will tell you that experience is the best teacher, but I tell you that a **fool** learns no other way!”*
 - c. Simply put, life is too short to learn everything the **hard way**.
 - d. The Book of Proverbs is all about a dad, exhorting his son, to learn from both the **wise** and **foolish** choices of others.

C. I do not preach from an “*ivory tower*” of self-righteousness, so if I need a negative illustration, I will often draw one from the “*Larry Nelson Hall of Shame!*”

1. Growing up in a non-Christian home, unfortunately, I only have one memory of Christmas.
 - a. I was about 7 years old, and my dad bought himself a shiny new red gas can for Christmas, which he put under the tree.
 - b. Later that night, he bellowed, "*Whose been messing with my gas can?!!!*"
 - c. Now I had learned the hard way, not to touch my dad's stuff, so I said, "*Not me Daddy.*"
 - d. To which one of my siblings, who will remain nameless, to protect the guilty, said, "*Daddy, He's lying!, I saw him playing heads and tails with the gas cap. He must have lost it!*"
 - e. Even though the Nelsons were not Christians, there was one thing my father would not tolerate, and that was a lie.
 - f. So in desperation, I cried out "***Daddy, I didn't touch your gas can, I promise!***"
 - g. He then grabbed hold of my arm and drug me off to his bedroom, where he slipped off his leather belt, and doubled it in half.
 - h. With one hand he held me down, and with the other he tried to beat a confession out of me, which continued until he was too tired to hit me any more.
 - i. When I wouldn't confess, he literally kicked me out of his room, as he yelled, "***Get out of my sight!***"
2. That was the day I learned to hate.
 - a. I hated my sibling for setting me up, and lying about me.
 - b. I hated my father for beating and refusing to believe me.
 - c. And I hated my mother, because she did not try to stop him.
3. This was only the first of many false accusations and beatings that I would receive growing up, and from that day on, I can't remember when I wasn't angry.
 - a. As I entered into my teen years, things only got worse, and so, my sinful, bitter heart hatched a terrible plan.
 - b. I began to study Karate, so that one day, I could murder my father.
 - c. But thankfully, in the providence of God, just about the time when I became skilled enough to deliver several death blows before a man could hit the ground, God saved my soul.
4. As a new Christian, I abandoned my plan to murder my father, but for years, I continued to struggle with hatred and bitterness toward him, and the others who would later wrong me.

- a. And were it not for a godly old pastor named, Paul Obinger, I am sure my life would have been ruined, by my own anger and bitterness.
- b. To make a very long story short, I had been out of Bible College and serving in ministry for two years when Pastor Paul counseled me from *Hebrews 12:14-15*.

Hebrews 12:14-15

14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

- c. Although I had read this text many times before, in the weeks that followed, God mercifully opened my eyes to many other passages of scripture, which would change me forever.
- d. And as I confessed and repented of my bitterness against God and others, He began to heal my wounded heart.

PROP> So this morning, I want to introduce you to what I have called, “**The Problems Chart**”, which I have shared with almost everyone who has come to me for biblical counseling these last 40 years.

And as I do, it is my prayer that each of you would come to **experience** the **joy** and **freedom** that is for all of God’s children, if we will just listen to and obey His Word.

Oh that I could have learned these truths as a child!

James 1:2-4 speaks of having joy in the midst of deep sorrow and pain., Please understand that the truths, which I am about to share, I learned by the merciful grace of God, through the desperation of Bible study, as I struggled with the sinful failures in my own life.

TRANS> So with that as our introduction, please fill in the blanks, and follow with me as I unpack “**The Problems Chart**.”

While *James 1:2-4* instructs us concerning **what** to do when we experience trials, the Bible passages of the “*The Problems Chart*,” will explain to us **how** to honor God when trials come.

1. I want to begin by reminding all of us, that as slaves of Christ, we have but one purpose in life, which is summarized in:

1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

- a. Whatever the size or shape of the trial, our overarching question and prayer should be: “How can I glorify God in this ...?”
 - b. And “**The Problems Chart**” will instruct us in the God-glorifying path, for every trial that comes into our life.
2. First of all, there are only two kinds of problems in life, **Circumstance Problems** and **People Problems**.

- a. And with each, *Hebrews 12:15* gives us these **warnings**.

Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

- b. The first warning is that we must not “come **short of grace** of God.”
- c. The Greek language, often uses the same word in different ways, and so it is when it comes to the word “*grace*.”
- d. While *Ephesians 2:8-9* speaks of “**saving grace**,” which is the unmerited favor of God offered to those who are lost in their sins, *Hebrews 12:15* is exhorting Christians not to fall short of receiving God’s “**sustaining or sanctifying grace**,” which is the “*desire and power to love, honor, obey, and worship God in every situation*.”
- e. This is the *Philippians 4:12-13* kind of grace, where Paul speaks of learning to live by God’s **grace**, in both abundance and depravation.

Philippians 4:12-13

12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and **every** circumstance I have **learned** the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

13 I can do all things through **Him** who strengthens me.

- f. The writer of *Hebrews* goes on to warn what will happen to those who fall short, or fail, to appropriate the sustaining grace of God.
- i. First of all, they will become infected with a “root of bitterness.”
- ii. And secondly, that “root of bitterness.” will infect and defile others.

3. A **Circumstance Problem** is just the general stuff of life, which *James 1:2* calls “various trials.”

- a. For example: You are heading out the door for church, or for work, , or for a doctor’s appointment, and you discover that your car has a flat tire, because you ran over a nail.

4. A **People Problem** is a **Circumstance Problem** with a person attached.

- a. For example: You are heading out the door, and you discover that someone has taken a knife and slashed the sidewall of your tire.
- b. So not only do you have to buy a new tire, worse still, **someone did** this to you!
- c. So regardless of whether it is a **Circumstance** or a **People Problem**, in that very moment, God gives His “**sustaining grace**,” which is the desire, and power to glorify Him, in the midst of this trial.

5. Now the first “*sustaining grace*” that God gives, is for us to respond to this trial in **FAITH**., ¿ Do you remember *Romans 8:28-29* from last time?

Romans 8:28-29

28 “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son ...”

- a. Faith trusts that God is going to use this **hard thing** to make us more like Christ, even if we don't understand it now.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things **not seen**.

- b. Faith says, “Lord I don't understand why this ‘flat tire’ came into my life **today**, but I am going to trust that this is part of the ‘**all things**’ that You bring into my life, to make me more like Christ!!”
- c. Now if this “**Circumstance Problem**” is attached to a **People**, then there is another aspect of faith, which we **must embrace**.
 - i. I call it “**The 50/20 Principle.**”
 - ii. Flash back to the end of Genesis, where Joseph's dad has died, and now his brothers are afraid that he is going to take revenge and kill them all, but look what he says instead.

Genesis 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.”

- iii. Here is a guy who did not have even a single verse of Scripture, and yet he understood the “**sustaining grace**” and **faith** of *Romans 8:28-29* better than most Christians do today!
- iv. Although Joseph understood the evil intentions of his brothers, he also recognized the sovereign hand of God behind it all.

TRANS> So **Faith** is what prepares us for **Step 2** of “**The Problems Chart**”

6. **GIVE THANKS**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

16 Rejoice always;

17 pray without ceasing;

18 in **everything give thanks**; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- a. Please understand that our emotions are just the sum-total of what is going on at any given time in our lives.
 - i. And although we cannot control how we **feel**, by God's grace we must control what we **think, do, and say, regardless** of how we **feel**.
- b. That is why God does not command us **feel thankful**.
- c. But through FAITH and TRUST in the sovereign hand of God, in **any** and **every** situation, we are **commanded** here to “**give thanks.**”

- d. Now please listen to me **very carefully**: When it comes to *giving thanks* for a “*People Problem*,” we are **Never** commanded to thank God for the **sin** that has been perpetrated upon us.
- i. Instead, we are to “*give thanks*” in **faith**, for what God is going to teach us through this difficult experience, and we are to also “*give thanks*” in **faith** for how He is going to use us to bless and help others, because we have gone through this hard time.
 - ii. Often, it is our personal suffering and abuse from others that credentials us to speak truth into the lives of those who are hurting.
- e. Now I want to assure you that I hold counseling confidentiality **very carefully**, and so I never speak to others about a case without their permission, And I have been given permission to share this with you.
- i. Years ago, Marian and I counseled a young mother, who as a child, had been “**abused**,” every night by her older brothers.
 - ii. We can only imagine the terror she experienced, as they threatened to kill her if she ever told anyone!
 - iii. But the biblical truths that she learned from “**The Problems Chart**” totally changed her life, and as she tells her story to others today, there is not even a hint of self-pity or bitterness in her.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

- 3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,*
- 4 *who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*
- 5 *For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.*

- iv. My dear Marian puts it this way, “*God does not comfort us in order to make us comfortable., He comforts us so that we will be able to comfort others!*”
- v. Unfortunately, there is **only one way** for us to learn how to suffer loss, or be abused, lied about, or persecuted, without becoming angry and bitter, and that is to suffer loss, be abused, lied about, or persecuted, without becoming angry or bitter!

*Hebrews 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a **sacrifice of praise** to God, that is, the fruit of lips that **give thanks** to His name.*

- f. Please notice how the author of Hebrews, combines this command with the costly sacrifices which were once brought to the temple.
- g. And just like the Israelites, who could not just bring some half dead or diseased animal to the temple, so too, we are commanded here to trust our Master, with a faith-filled sincerely of heart, not a “**DRA**.” That’s a “**Dirty Rotten Attitude**.”
- i. Here is what I mean by a “**DRA**,” “OK God, I know I’m supposed to ‘give thanks’, so **THANKS a BUNCH!**” (STOMP)

- h. But the sincere, "... *sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that **give thanks** to His name*", is **costly**, and it must be driven by faith and trust, in the sovereign plan, of our loving Master, **especially** when we don't see or understand why this hard thing has happened to us.
 - i. Remember: ***Our God Never Wastes Suffering!***
 - i. Here's another *Nelsonism*:
 "When I cannot trace God's hand, I must **always** trust His heart."
 - j. Now if we are dealing with only a **Circumstance Problem**, then all that is required is, FAITH and the GIVING of THANKS.
- 7. But if this problem is attached to a person, then we must move on to **Step 3**, which we, as biblical counselors call: "**THE HEART OF FORGIVENESS**."

Ephesians 4:30-32

30 *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

31 *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.*

32 *Be kind to one another, **tender-hearted**, forgiving each other, **just as God in Christ also has forgiven you**.*

- a. These verses teach us that our forgiveness of others must reflect God's forgiveness of us.
- b. There are two distinct aspects of forgiveness, which I call the "**Heart of Forgiveness**" and the "**Transaction of Forgiveness**."
 - i. According to *Ephesians 4:32*, we are to forgive others, "... **just as God in Christ also has forgiven us**."
 - ii. And this is where some who teach about forgiveness jump the rails by insisting that we must forgive the offending person, even if he **never confesses** what he did, or **asks** for our forgiveness.
 - iii. Even though this may sound spiritual, and even biblical, it isn't!
 - iv. Let me ask you something:, ¿"Would God have forgiven us, if we had not humbly confessed our sins, repented, and sought His forgiveness first?," **Obviously not!**

1 John 1:9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

- v. Notice how the "**Transaction** of God's Forgiveness" does not take place until we confess and repent of our sins.
- vi. Jesus taught this same principle in:

Luke 17:3 "... If your brother sins, rebuke him; and **if** he repents, forgive him."

- vii. Jesus' death on the cross, shows God's eagerness to forgive our sins, which is what I call, "**The Heart of Forgiveness**."

- viii. And like God, we need to have “*The **Heart** of Forgiveness*”, which is **eager** to forgive those who have sinned against us.
 - ix. So, ¿How many people does it take to exercise “*The **Transaction** of Forgiveness*”? It takes two.
 - x. ¿But how many people does it take to exercise “*The **Heart** of Forgiveness*”? **Just one**
 - xi. And since God’s forgiveness is total, meaning that He will never bring up our past, to use it against us, therefore, our forgiveness must be the same, once “*The **Transaction** of Forgiveness*” has been completed.
- c. Now let’s go back to the slashed tire on your car, where I hope you can see that the “***Transaction** of Forgiveness*,” cannot actually be granted, unless he confesses, repents and asks for it.
- i. But the sustaining grace of God enables us to exercise “*The **Heart** of Forgiveness*,” that is the **eagerness** and **commitment** to the “***Transaction** of Forgiveness*,” if he ever comes to request it.
 - ii. Again, it only takes 1 person to have a “***Heart** of Forgiveness*,” but it takes 2 people to engage in the “***Transaction** of Forgiveness*,” where the perpetrator confesses and seeks forgiveness, and the person who was wronged grants forgiveness.
8. Finally this morning, we come to the **Step 4** in “*The Problems Chart*” which is simply to **Do Good**.

Romans 12:17-21

17 *Never pay back evil for evil to anyone....*

18 *If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.*

19 *Never take your own revenge ...*

21 *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with **good**.*

- a. Now let’s look again at the example of Joseph’s behavior toward his murderous lying brothers, where he did not give them what they deserved, but instead, he gave them what they needed.
- b. And by **doing good**, God used Joseph to bring his brothers to repentance.

Hebrews 13:15-16

15 *Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that **give thanks** to His name.*

16 *“And do not neglect **doing good** and **sharing**, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”*

- c. In the “*flat tires*” of life, we may never know who did it, so the only “**good**” we can do, is to pray for them with a “**heart** of forgiveness.”
- d. So here are a couple of examples, as to how this whole process might work out in real life, 10 years after your tire was slashed.
 - i. Knock-knock-knock, and as you answer the door, a man says:

- (1) *“Hi, my name is Bob, and I’m the one who slashed your tire 10 years ago, and I have come to seek your forgiveness, and pay you back for the tire I destroyed, with interest!”*
 - (2) But you have been bitter for 10 years, and so, before you slam the door in his face, you snatch up the money, and give him an angry piece of your mind, that you cannot spare.
 - (3) This is the fruit of **bitterness** that has been brewing for years!
- ii. But now let’s assume that you have obeyed and honored God by applying “**The Problems Chart.**”
- (1) Knock-knock-knock, and as Bob is making his confession, you verily drag him into the house saying, *“I have been praying for you for 10 years!— Please come in and sit down, and **yes**, I forgive you!, and thanks for the money!, Now tell me about yourself!”*
 - (2) And in the time that follows, you may have the opportunity to lead him to the Lord!

Conclusion:

1. I want to close our time this morning with the following simple illustration:
 - a. All of us at one time or another have gotten a cut on our hand.
 - b. Now God has created these bodies to heal themselves, if we will just do a two things.
 - i. First of all we have to get the wound clean, and second, we have to keep it clean, until it heals.
 - ii. But if we fail to get it clean, or to keep it clean, then infection can start, and we could end up losing our hand, or our arm, or even our life to blood poisoning.
 - c. Please hear me!, What **infection** is to the body, **bitterness** is to the soul!, and I assure you that, *“time does **not** heal all wounds.”*
 - i. Time just turns untended wounds into **gangrene!**
 - d. So let me ask you:, ¿“When does a person actually become bitter?”
 - i. ¿Are we bitter, just because we feel bitter?
 - ii. No!, From *Hebrews 12:15* and the other texts that we have looked at this morning, it is clear that we become infected with the *“root of bitterness”* the moment we fail to respond properly to the grace of God with Faith, Giving Thanks, the Heart of Forgiveness, and the Doing of Good.
 - iii. We are not bitter because we feel bitter. We are bitter by definition.
 - iv. Just like most cancers infect the body, long before the victim knows it, so bitterness is doing its dirty work in the soul, long before we realize that it is even there.

- v. In fact, most bitter people don't think of themselves as being bitter at all.
 - vi. They see themselves as being absolutely right and righteous, but in point of fact, they are a lot like drunkards.
 - (1) Who is the last person to realize he has a drinking problem?
 - (2) ¿Is it not the drunkard?
 - (3) Other people see it, but he doesn't.
 - e. And so it is with the infection of sinful bitterness, which just gets worse over time, as it brews and stews in its own self-righteousness.
 - f. I have counseled many people, who talk as though their hurts were inflicted upon them yesterday.
 - i. But in fact, for some of them, it was 50 years ago!, and now the infection has turned into a gangrenous cancer in their soul, that affects and infects anyone, who will listen to them.
2. Now please consider this question:
- a. ¿*“Who is it that we are actually bitter against?”*
 - b. Who actually allowed this *“Circumstance and/or People Problem”* to come upon us? **God did!!!**
 - i. Therefore, our bitterness is actually focused first and foremost upon Almighty God!, Which is a horrible sin.
3. So, Faith, Giving Thanks, the Heart of Forgiveness, and Doing of Good are the antiseptics that we must keep pouring into our soul, whenever we are hurt by the Circumstance and People Problems of life, until the wounds heal.
- a. And just like with the human body, which does not heal over night, It often takes some time for the wounds in our soul to fully heal, but they will heal if, by the grace of God, we just get them clean and **keep** them clean.
 - b. My body has many scars, but one way to know that a wound is actually healed, is that it doesn't hurt anymore.
 - c. And so it is when it comes to wounds in our soul, there will usually be some scars, which are just the memories of what happened.
 - d. But I, and hundreds of my counselees over the years, are living testimonies, that when we, by the grace of God, apply the antiseptic of Faith, Giving Thanks, the Heart of Forgiveness, and Doing of Good, one day the memories won't hurt anymore.
 - e. And had I not gone through this process myself, I would still hate my father to this day, but by the grace of God, I had the privilege of leading him to salvation in Christ when he was 90 years old, just two months before he died.

4. The writer of Hebrews declared this amazing thing about our Master:

Hebrews 5:8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

- a. ¿ So if this is true about Jesus Christ, what about us?

James 1:2-4

- 2 *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,*
 - 3 *knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.*
 - 4 *And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*
5. So as I close this message this morning, please remember these two truths: OUR GOD NEVER WASTES SUFFERING! **and** “The trials of life will make you either **bitter** or **better**, and you choose which one it will be!”

PROBLEMS CHART

1 Corinthians 10:31

“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

Hebrews 12:15

“See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.”

Saving Grace: (Ephesians 2:8-9) The unmerited favor of God

Sustaining Grace: The desire and power to love, honor, obey, and worship God in every situation

CIRCUMSTANCE PROBLEM	PEOPLE PROBLEM
1. _____ <i>(Romans 8:28-29) (Hebrews 11:1, 6)</i>	1. _____ <i>(Romans 8:28-29) (Hebrews 11:1, 6) (Genesis 50:20)</i>
2. _____ <i>(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) (Hebrews 13:15)</i>	2. _____ <i>(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) (Hebrews 13:15)</i>
The PROBLEMS in your life will make you either Bitter or Better , and you choose which one it will be!	3. _____ <i>(Ephesians 4:30-32) (Luke 17:3-4; Matt.18:15-20) (Matthew 18:21-35)</i>
	4. _____ <i>(Hebrews 6:10; 13:16) (Romans 12:17-21)</i>

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Saving Grace: (Ephesians 2:8-9) The unmerited favor of God

Sustaining Grace: The desire and power to love, honor, obey, and worship God in every situation

CIRCUMSTANCE PROBLEM	PEOPLE PROBLEM
1. FAITH <i>(Romans 8:28-29)</i> <i>(Hebrews 11:1, 6)</i>	1. FAITH <i>(Romans 8:28-29)</i> <i>(Hebrews 11:1, 6)</i> <i>(Genesis 50:20)</i>
2. GIVE THANKS <i>(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)</i> <i>(Hebrews 13:15)</i>	2. GIVE THANKS <i>(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)</i> <i>(Hebrews 13:15)</i>
The PROBLEMS in your life will make you either <u>Bitter</u> or <u>Better</u>, and you choose which one it will be!	3. HEART OF FORGIVENESS <i>(Ephesians 4:30-32)</i> <i>(Luke 17:3-4; Matt.18:15-20)</i> <i>(Matthew 18:21-35)</i>
	4. DO GOOD <i>(Hebrews 6:10; 13:16)</i> <i>(Romans 12:17-21)</i>

PROBLEMS CHART

1 Corinthians 10:31

“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

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Problems Chart - Scripture Verses

1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (NAS95)

Hebrews 11:1,6 “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen ... 6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” (NAS95)

Hebrews 12:15 “See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;” (NAS95)

Romans 8:28-29 “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;” (NAS95)

Genesis 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.” (NAS95)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 “Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” (NAS95)

Hebrews 13:15 “Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.” (NAS95)

Ephesians 4:30-32 “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” (NAS95)

Matthew 18:15-17 “If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” (NAS95)

Luke 17:3-4 “Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. 4 And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him.” (NAS95)

Matthew 18:21-35 “Then Peter came and said to Him, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’ 22 Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. 26 So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ 27 And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ 29 So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ 30 But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. 31 So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. 32 Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ 34 And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. 35 My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.” (NAS95)

Hebrews 6:10 “For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.” (NAS95)

Hebrews 13:16 “And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (NAS95)

Romans 12:17-21 “Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord. 20 “BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (NAS95)