



FIVE WAYS GOD USES PROBLEMS

OVERVIEW:

The problems you face will either defeat you or develop you -- depending on how you respond to them. Unfortunately, most people fail to see how God wants to use problems for good in their lives. They react foolishly and resent their problems rather than pausing to consider what benefit they might bring. Here are five ways God wants to use the problems in your life:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Proverbs 20:30

James 1:2-3

Psalm 119:71-72

Genesis 50:20

Romans 5:3-4



—**Teaching point one: God uses problems to DIRECT you.**

Sometimes God must light a fire under you to get you moving. Problems often point us in a new direction and motivate us to change. Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways. **Proverbs 20:30**

In what problems have you discovered that God was trying to get your attention?

—**Teaching point two: God uses problems to INSPECT you.**

People are like tea bags... if you want to know what's inside them, just drop them into hot water! "When you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience." **James 1:2-3**

Has God tested your faith with a problem?

YES

NO

What do problems reveal about you?



—**Teaching point three: God uses problems to CORRECT you.**

Some lessons we learn only through pain and failure. It's likely that as a child your parents told you not to touch a hot stove. But you probably learned by being burned. Sometimes we only learn the value of something ... health, money, a relationship ... by losing it. "It was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws." Psalm 119:71-72

What lessons have you learned through pain and failure?

—**Teaching point four: God uses problems to PROTECT you.**

A problem can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents you from being harmed by something more serious. Last year a friend was fired for refusing to do something unethical that his boss had asked him to do. His unemployment was a problem - but it saved him from being convicted and sent to prison a year later when management's actions were eventually discovered." You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good"... Genesis 50:20

Do you recall when a problem you faced turned out to be a blessing in disguise?



—**Teaching point five: God uses problems to PERFECT you.**

Problems, when responded to correctly, are character builders. God is far more interested in your character than your comfort. Your relationship to God and your character are the only two things you're going to take with you into eternity.

"We can rejoice when we run into problems ... they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady." Romans 5:3-4



THINGS TO PONDER . . .

God is at work in your life - even when you do not recognize it or understand it. But it's much easier and profitable when you cooperate with Him.

Success can be measured not only in achievements, but in lessons earned, lives touched and moments shared along the way."

Five ways God uses problems to: **DIRECT, INSPECT, CORRECT, PROTECT and PERFECT!**



1. Problems often point us in a _____
and _____ us to _____.

2. People are like tea bags... if you want to know what's _____
them, just drop them into _____!

3. Some lessons we learn only through _____ and _____.

4. A problem can be a _____ in _____.

5. Problems, when responded to correctly, are _____
_____.