

Why Do Christians Have Problems?

Introduction

1. **Jesus, explaining the parable of the sower, says:**

Matthew 13:19-22 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

2. **The problem of falling away is not new to Christianity.**

A. **Sadly, many who started with Christ have left Him.**

- 1) **They have slid backward and returned to the ways of the world.**
- 2) **Often leading the way are life's problems.**

B. **God never promised us that we would be problem-free in this life.**

Problems and Trials Come in Three Ways

1. We cause the problems.

2 Timothy 4:10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica.....

2. People cause problems.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

3. Circumstances cause problems.

A. The riot in Ephesus (Acts 19), threatened Paul's life.

People React to Problems in Three Ways

1. We cover it up.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

2. We shut up.

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

3. We give up.

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Victory Over Problems is Achieved in Three Ways

1. Instead of covering up, we need to grow up.

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

2. Instead of shutting up, we need to speak up.

Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

3. Instead of giving up, we need to stand up.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

- A. Stan Toler once said: "Many of life's failures occur when we are close to success."**
- B. When we stand up for what is right, we do not stand alone.**
- C. Let us remember not to close our eye of faith to all the help that God has surrounded us with.**

1 John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

2 Kings 6:16-17 "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see."

- 1) May we open our eyes of faith and see the resources God has made available to us.**

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Conclusion

2 Peter 1:4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1. **Perhaps God is ready and willing to help in ways we have never dared to hope.**
2. **Rejections, defeats, and failures that all of us have experienced can create enough negative feelings to destroy us.**
 - A. **Be careful! Often the most painful wounds are not the scars that are outwardly seen, but the hidden wounds deep in the heart.**
 - 1) **Being hidden, they are often the most dangerous.**
 - 2) **Setbacks in our lives can take the joy out of living. Our faith is weakened, and if we collect enough hurts it will stop us from wanting to press forward.**
3. **Instead of constantly telling God how big our problems are perhaps it is time to tell our problems how big our God is!**
4. **God doesn't always give His children what they ask for, but He never fails to supply their needs.**
John 16:33

1 Kings 20:28 Then a man of God came and spoke to the king of Israel, and said, "Thus says the Lord: 'Because the Syrians have said, "The Lord is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys," therefore I will deliver all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the Lord.'"

5. **When all is said and done in life, we can say along with the Psalmist:** Psalms 119:65 You have dealt well with Your servant, O Lord, according to Your word.

