

# Being Faithful in an *Un*Faithful World!

## Making the **most** out of your problems

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** Even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

### 3 *Wrong* Responses to your problems...

#### 1. *Defending yourself*

Ecclesiastes 3:7 There is a time to be quiet and a time to speak.

#### 2. *Blaming Someone Else*

Proverbs 30:10 Never slander a worker to the employer, or the person will curse you, and you will pay for it.

#### 3. *Holding in Anger*

Ecclesiastes 7:9 Control your temper, for anger labels you a fool.

### 3 *Right* Responses to your problems...

#### 1. *Thank God for the Problem*

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

I belong to God, and, therefore am His responsibility!  
His work and reputation are affected by my responses!  
He wants the best for me!  
He is bigger than the source of irritation!  
He has allowed the irritation for my ultimate benefit!

#### 2. *Identify Possible Causes*

1 Corinthians 11:31-32 But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way. Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

Did I cause this irritation by something I did or failed to do?

Does this irritation reflect a personal fault or lack of character development in me?

### 3. *Determine* Ultimate Objectives

**Galatians 5:22** But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

#### **Problems:**

One who is hard to love...Sorrowful circumstances...Conditions of confusion  
Irritating inconveniences...Obvious needs of others  
Unwelcome responsibilities...People who intrude upon personal rights  
Temptations of wrong desires

#### **Promise:**

**Romans 8:28-29** And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.