

## Profiting From My Problems

Working Wisdom #1-10

January 1, 2012

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **James 1:2-4 (NIV)**

### Four facts I need to know about my problems:

1. My Problems **are inevitable**. "...whenever you face trials..."
2. My Problems **are unpredictable**. "...whenever you face trials..."
3. My Problems **vary**. "... you face trials of many kinds,"
4. My Problems **have a purpose**. "Because you know..."

### What is the purpose of my problems?

- My Problems **test my faith**.

...the testing of your faith develops perseverance. **James 1:3 (NIV)**

I have refined you but not in the way silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering. **Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)**

- My Problems **develop patience**.

...the testing of your faith develops perseverance. **James 1:3 (NIV)**

- My Problems **build character**.

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **James 1:4 (NIV)**

- **God's Ultimate Goal: To grow & become like Jesus.**

## How do I approach my problems?

### 1. **Rejoice**.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds. **James 1:2 (NIV)**

- Don't rejoice **for** the problem, rejoice **in** the problem.

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)**

I will praise the LORD at all times; his praise is always on my lips. **Psalms 34:1 (NCV)**

We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him. They are the people he called, because that was his plan. **Romans 8:28 (NCV)**

You meant to hurt me, but God turned your evil into good to save the lives of many people, which is being done. **Genesis 50:20 (NCV)**

### 2. **Request**.

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. **James 1:5 (NIV)**

- Don't ask **why?** Ask **what?**

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you. **2 Chronicles 20:12 (NIV)**

### 3. **Relax**.

But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. **James 1:6 (NLT)**

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. **James 1:12 (NIV)**

I know the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. <sup>9</sup> No wonder my heart is filled with joy, and my mouth shouts his praises! My body rests in safety. **Psalms 16:8-9 (NLT)**