

# CHIEF

## MINISTRIES

April 2025

Greetings. This month we are going to look at the ways God uses our problems and how we can be victorious in all areas and at all times on this journey through life.

Life is a series of problem-solving opportunities. The problems we face will either defeat us or develop us, depending on how we respond to them. It is “all about the choices.” When most people encounter difficulty, they react impulsively or become resentful. They don’t pause to consider what benefit their problems might bring. As a result, they never see how God wants to use problems for good in their lives. Let’s look at Psalm 119:71-72: *“My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees. Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver.”* Now when we are in the midst of a problem, the last thing we are thinking about is, “What is God trying to teach me in this, what am I supposed to glean from this?” But remember, until we learn or glean, we will keep going around that same mountain over and over. I know that hit a nerve or two, so let’s look at how we can do a one-and-done.

Let’s look at the five main ways that God uses the problems in our life. I want you to understand what they are so that, next time you face difficulty, you can be on the lookout for how God is working. Be assured, there will be a next time. So, what or how does God use our problems? How can we incorporate that teaching into our lives?

**God uses problems to DIRECT us.** Sometimes God lights a fire under us to get us moving. Problems can point us in a new direction and motivate us to change. Sometimes, we go in the wrong direction, and God allows difficulties to steer us back on course. Pain and hardship can reveal that we are not where we should be spiritually or in life. Is God trying to get your attention? As Proverbs 20:30 says, *“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways”* (GNT). Proverbs 3:5-6 says, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”*

If you find yourself struggling in a job, relationship, or decision, ask God if He is using the situation to redirect you toward His will. Pray for guidance, and be open to change.

**God uses problems to INSPECT us.** People are like teabags: If you want to know what’s inside them, just drop them into hot water! Has God ever tested your faith with a problem? What did that problem reveal about you? James 1:2-3 says, *“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”* (NCV). Hardships reveal what is truly in our hearts. They test our character, faith, and trust in God. When pressure comes, our true spiritual condition is exposed. James 1:2-3 says *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”*

During a difficult season, examine your response. Do you react in fear or faith? Do you trust God, or do you try to fix things on your own? Use trials as opportunities to grow in faith and reliance on God.

**God uses problems to CORRECT us.** Some lessons we learn only through pain and failure. When you were a child, your parents likely told you not to touch a hot stove. But you probably didn’t actually learn the lesson until you ignored their instruction and were burned. Sometimes we only learn the value of something—like health, money, or a relationship—by losing it. That was true for the author of Psalm 119: *“My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees. Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver”* (Psalm 119:71–72 NLT). Sometimes suffering is God’s loving discipline. He corrects us when we are going astray so that we can grow in righteousness. Hebrews 12:10-11 says, *“For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*

If you realize that your struggles are the result of poor choices, repent and realign yourself with God’s will. Learn from the situation and allow God’s correction to shape you.

**God uses problems to PROTECT us.** A problem can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents us from being harmed by something more serious. A few years ago, a friend of mine was fired for refusing to do something unethical that his boss asked him to do. His unemployment was a problem—but it saved him from being convicted and sent to prison a year later when his boss's actions were uncovered. He was able to say like Joseph did, *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good"* (Genesis 50:20 NIV). What seems like a setback may actually be God's protection. Joseph's suffering in Egypt was not punishment but preparation and protection for a greater purpose, and he was instrumental in saving his family and the nation.

When things don't go as planned, consider that God may be protecting you from unseen harm. Trust Him even when you don't understand His ways.

**God uses problems to PERFECT us.** Problems, when responded to correctly, are character builders: *"We know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character"* (Romans 5:3-4 NLT). God is far more interested in our character than our comfort. Your relationship with God and our character are the only two things we're going to take with us into eternity. Trials refine our character and make us more like Christ. Every challenge we overcome strengthens our faith and maturity.

Instead of complaining about hardships, view them as opportunities for growth. Ask God what He wants to teach us and how He is molding us into His image.

Psalm 119:71-72, reminds us that affliction can be a blessing when it brings us closer to God and His Word. Through trials, He directs, inspects, corrects, protects, and perfects us. Instead of resisting hardships, embrace them as tools for spiritual growth, trusting that God's plan is always for your good. *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes. The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver (Psalm 119:71-72)."*

Partnering with God to achieve victory in our problems requires faith, obedience, and spiritual discipline. Here are key ways to do so, backed by Scripture and practical application:

### 1. Trust in God Completely

**Scripture:** Proverbs 3:5-6 – *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

**Application:**

- Stop relying on your own wisdom and surrender your problem to God.
- Pray for His guidance and trust that His plan is better than yours.
- Keep your focus on Him instead of the problem.

### 2. Pray and Seek God's Direction

**Scripture:** Philippians 4:6-7 – *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

**Application:**

- Bring your struggles to God in prayer, asking for wisdom and strength.
- Be specific in your prayers, seeking His will instead of your own desires.
- Listen for His guidance through His Word, the Holy Spirit, and godly counsel.

### 3. Obey God's Word

**Scripture:** Joshua 1:8 – *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."*

**Application:**

- Align your actions with God's Word, even when it's difficult.
- Study Scripture daily to gain wisdom for handling challenges.
- Do what God has already instructed before asking for new direction.

### 4. Walk by Faith, Not by Sight

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:7 – *"For we walk by faith, not by sight."*

**Application:**

- Trust God even when circumstances don't make sense.
- Declare His promises over your situation instead of speaking fear and doubt.
- Step forward in faith, knowing He is leading you to victory.

## 5. Use Spiritual Weapons (Prayer, Worship, and the Word)

**Scripture:** Ephesians 6:12-13 – *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."*

### Application:

- Put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18).
- Fight spiritual battles with prayer, fasting, worship, and Scripture.
- Resist the devil by standing firm in God's truth.

## 6. Stay in Community with Other Believers

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 – *"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion."*

### Application:

- Surround yourself with strong, faith-filled believers who will encourage and pray for you.
- Seek counsel and accountability when facing challenges.
- Don't isolate yourself—God often uses others to bring wisdom and breakthrough.

## 7. Persevere and Remain Patient

**Scripture:** James 1:2-4 – *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."*

### Application:

- Don't give up when things don't change immediately—God is working behind the scenes.
- Continue to trust and obey Him, even when the answer is delayed.
- Keep your eyes on Jesus, remembering that trials refine and strengthen you.

## 8. Declare Victory in Christ

**Scripture:** Romans 8:37 – *"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."*

### Application:

- Declare that you are victorious in Christ, even before you see the breakthrough.
- Replace fear and negativity with faith-filled declarations.
- Live with confidence, knowing that God has already secured your victory.

Victory comes when we partner with God by trusting Him, seeking His guidance, obeying His Word, using spiritual weapons, and persevering in faith. The key is to stay close to Him, believing that He is working all things for our good (Romans 8:28).

We're going to experience difficulties. Everyone does. When we do, it is imperative to remember that we have a choice. We can let those difficulties defeat us. Or we can choose to let God direct, inspect, correct, protect, and perfect us through them → victory!

I would like for you to take some time and ask the Lord about a time in your life when you were faced with a problem, maybe it is now, while in prison, or the events that led you to prison, a failed relationship, loss of a job, homelessness, whatever the Lord brings to your remembrance, ask Him, "What was (am) I to learn from this, what and how should I respond in the future to similar situations to make me stronger or better?" Write down what you hear and put it in practice, share with a like believer or someone who may be going through the same things, pray together. Remember if one can put a thousand to flight, two can put ten thousand to flight (Deuteronomy 32:30).

Blessings, victory, and prayers for all of you!

## *Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)*

*If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com)*

*Christ's Heart In Every Felon*



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