

September 30, 2018



2 CORINTHIANS 6:4 (NLT)

"In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. (HOW?) We patiently endure troubles, patiently endure hardships, and patiently endure calamities of every kind."

QUESTION: "What is God's goal in the troubles, difficulties and hardships of our lives?"

TRUTH: I show my faith maturity by my response to my problems (Acts 27).

TRUTH: When impatience rules your life decisions, you're headed for a storm of life.

I. ASK: "HOW DID I GET HERE?"

Four causes of life trouble:

1. I cause a great deal of my life trouble.
2. Other people
3. Satan causes trouble through personal attacks.
4. God allows problems to get my attention, test me, or mold me, and change the direction of my life.

QUESTION: How do you know where the trouble is coming from? You go to God for insight (Psalm 73:16-17).

TRUTH: Worship, preaching of the Word, and fellowship with God's people are God's chosen pathways for insight to the difficulties of your days.

INSIGHT: You may be in your trouble because you listened to the wrong voice (Acts 27:10-11).

Three ways I cause life trouble for myself:

1. Listening to bad advice

TRUTH: If God tells you one thing and the experts tell you another...follow God.

2. Following the crowd

TRUTH: The majority is often wrong.

INSIGHT: Don't base your morality on opinion polls.

3. Deceptive open doors

WARNING: Don't take every open door you see.

TRUTH: Satan attends church every week seeking whom he can lead astray! So, bathe every opportunity in prayer.

II. DETERMINE WHAT'S THE POINT (2 Corinthians 4:17).

HERE'S THE POINT: God has a purpose in every problem if we belong to Him (Romans 5:3).

INSIGHT FOR SLOW LEARNERS: If you don't learn what God is teaching you in your present troubles, they will repeat themselves till you do. You never graduate from God's school of lifelong learning.

III. LEARN GOD'S GOAL IN YOUR TROUBLE.

THE POINT: In your present pain and trouble, God is more concerned about what's happening IN YOU than TO YOU.

WHAT NOT TO DO IN TROUBLE:

1. Don't coast (Acts 27:15).
2. Don't abandon (Acts 27:18).

INSIGHT: In your life storm God is in control; He hasn't left you. He's testing your trust in Him.

WHAT TO DO IN TROUBLE:

1. Admit your part (Proverbs 28:13).
2. Confront it.
3. Claim a promise from God (Acts 27:25).

INVITATION INSIGHT: In this storm everything fell apart but Paul. His confidence was in God, not the ship.