

# VICTORY OVER LIFE'S DIFFICULTIES

Message 1

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INTRO: Life is filled with difficulties. There is a very good reason for that, and if we know God at all we should know that. How many say, "If there is a God, why do people suffer?" But there are very good reasons why people suffer.

We are going to look at how to deal with life's problems from a Christian perspective. But for those who are not Christians to deal with life's problems for what God has intended these problems, they must first determine whether there is in fact a God and if so, who is He or who are they? In this message we take for granted that the listener is a Christian.

To hear some Christians, one would think that a Christian should not have problems. If he does, he must be living in sin. But the facts are there is a very good reason why the lost and the saved both have a lot of difficulties in life and we will look at that.

Let me further give the main reasons I see why unbelievers have difficulties and that is through these God wants to bring them to Christ. He wants them to recognize they are sinners and lost and through this bring them to repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ. The reason God allows Christians to suffer is to conform them to the image of Christ. Let me just say this, if we never had problems we would never get saved and all of mankind would go to hell. And second, if the Christian did not have problems, he would never become like Christ.

## I. THE PURPOSE OF LIFE'S PROBLEMS

When one has determined there must be a God or some gods this is the beginning of true faith. When one has come to the conclusion that the God of the Bible is the one true God, one has taken a huge step forward in faith. Now one is ready to look at our topic and that is how to handle life's problems according to this book we call the Bible.

One of the first messages I ever preached was on Genesis 3:17 which says:

*17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.*

It is amazing that almost, if not all the bigger doctrines in the Bible can be found in seed form in Genesis 1-3. Here is the beginning of the doctrine of man's problems. Why does man have problems? It is all wrapped up in one word, and that is sin. Because God cannot dwell with sin in His immediate domain, man who has sinned is called lost. The justice for sin is hell fire forever. This is an unpopular doctrine, but that is what the Bible teaches. And it is for this very reason that God cursed the earth.

The devil deceived Eve into eating from the tree that God had forbidden them to eat of. Eve gave of the fruit of this tree to Adam and he ate. Then God spoke to Adam and Adam claimed that the woman God had given to him had given him of the fruit of the tree and he ate. Then God asked Eve, "What is this that you have done?" And she said the serpent had deceived her. Then God cursed the serpent and said He would put enmity between the serpent and the woman and the seed of the woman would bruise Satan's head and Satan would bruise the heel of the seed of the woman. To the woman He said that she would bear children in pain, and she would become subject to her husband.

Then God spoke to Adam, and here is what Genesis 3:17-19 says:

*17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.*

*18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.*

*19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."*

The key words regarding man's problems are found in verse 17 which say this: "Cursed is the ground for your sake."

Now this can be translated, "Cursed is the ground because of you," or "cursed is the ground on account of you," or "cursed is the ground for your sake." If it is translated, "because of you" that makes this curse a punishment. If it is translated as the KJV and NKJV do, "for your sake," this makes the purpose of cursing the ground redemptive and I believe that is correct. Martin Luther translated this as, "ferflucht ze der Aker um deinetwilen." That agrees with the KJV and NKJV.

I believe the translation "for your sake" is the most accurate and reveals a redemptive aspect to the curse. The Speaker's Bible entitles this clause, "The Blessing of the Curse". Is there a blessing in the curse? I believe there is. Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, a Jewish scholar, says in his 6-volume set on Genesis, "Cursed is the ground, not because you sinned, but for your betterment, for your sake."

Let me give you a paraphrase of verse 17 to bring out the redemptive aspect of the curse, "Adam, because you have obeyed the voice of your wife and have sinned by eating from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from, for this reason I have cursed the ground. You see Adam, by sinning, your hearts have become so distorted and depraved that I knew you would be lost forever. I knew you'd never come back to me. I couldn't force you. That is contrary to my character so I cursed the ground in order to make you willing to come back to me. I did it for your betterment; for your benefit; for your sake."

Listen to Haggai 2:17: "I struck you with blight and mildew and hail in all the labours of your hands; yet you did not turn to me, says the Lord." Why did God allow Israel to suffer such great troubles? He did it to cause them to return to Him.

In studying the attributes of God many conclude that God's main attribute is holiness. I think God's main attribute is that He is good. I think He is holy because He is good; He is righteous because He is good; He is just because He is good etc. God is good, through and through. And when we

have a world full of sorrow and troubles, if God is fully good, then it must be good that we have all these problems.

So let me give you what I see as the two great redemptive purposes for all of man's problems. The first is:

#### A. TO CONDUCT THE SINNER TO CHRIST

Man's problems, first and foremost are to bring us to salvation in Christ. It is instructive that Adam and Eve hid from God after sinning rather than turning to Him in repentance. The atheist and agnostic hide from God. We all hide from God. We do not want to be exposed for what we are; proud fallen sinners. It is not until after the curse that Adam and Eve were willing to subject themselves to God's way of salvation (Gen. 3:21).

I believe if it was not for life's problems, we would all go to hell. That is why God dealt with Adam and Eve the way He did. I have asked this question in many places: How many of you got saved because things were going really well? Then I ask, how many of you got saved because you experienced some great difficulty in life? It is always this that people say caused them to get saved, and here are our words, "Cursed is the ground for your sake. I did it for your good." We seem to be bent on getting saved in our own ways until God, through the difficulties of life gets a hold of us.

Listen to a testimony of a Jew who suffered the wrath of Adolf Hitler, "I am one of the Jews who escaped from Germany. I thank God for all the strokes with which I was driven from darkness to light. It is better that we arrive beaten and bleeding at the glorious goal than that we decay happily and contentedly in darkness. As long as things were all right with us, we did not know anything of God, anything of the salvation of our souls and the world beyond. Hitler's arrows and our misery have led us to reality. We have lost our earthly home, but have found our heavenly one. We have lost our economic support, but have won the friendship of the ravens of Elijah. On the bitter ways of emigration we

have found Jesus, the Riches of all worlds," LEM  
Abandoned to Christ, pg 79

What is it that prepares us for the cross? The curse!  
Difficulties in life!

B. TO CONFORM THE SAINT TO CHRIST

But what about after we are saved? Should not our problems be over after we get saved? Have you ever wondered what would happen if all our struggles were over after we get saved? Would people not want to get saved so that all their troubles would be over? God wants to save us from all our sins, not from all our troubles. Sin is the reason why God cursed the ground. He allowed us to experience trouble so we would come to Him and deal with our sins; He did not allow us our troubles so we would get saved from them.

There is a very important reason why our troubles are not over when we get saved and it is this: God does not only allow us to have troubles to conduct us to Christ, but also to conform us to Christ! The Bible likens the new Christian to a babe. The deliverance from sin has only just begun when we get saved. There are many, many things in us that God wants to deal with after we get saved. As a matter of fact, after we initially get saved, God wants us to overcome all sin in our life. As we grow older, we meet new things and these new things reveal a sin nature in us we did not know was there to that extent, and now begins the process to conform us to the image of Christ, to make us like Him.

Our initial salvation is called justification. The process of saving us from sin is called sanctification which means that we are to be made holy. God said, "Be ye holy for I am holy." And again, "without holiness no one will see the Lord." I have likened this to the process of polishing rocks. Day after day after day the tumbler turns and the rocks get worn down. Then another grit is put into the tumbler and again the grinding goes on day after day. This usually is done about 4 times, and in the end, you have a beautiful, polished rock.

I have likened the rocks to other people with whom we rub shoulders. The water in the tumbler I have likened to the Word of God, and the grit that wears away on the rocks I have likened to the problems in life. You need all of these to polish rocks, and we need other people, the Word of God and life's troubles to conform us to the image of Christ. The further one goes in the Christian life, the more one sees how much needs to be ground away on us. This is called sanctification, the process of making us holy.

God said to the woman that she would bring forth children in pain. The Apostle Paul said in 1 Timothy 2:

*14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*

*15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.*

How is a woman saved in child-bearing? Well, it is not justification or initial salvation that is in view here; it is sanctification. We are saved from sin's penalty initially, then we go on being saved from sin's power in life; and finally, we are saved from sin's very presence when we go to glory. And the salvation in view in this verse is the process of becoming holy. The man goes through the process of becoming holy in his life's work.

Somehow, we might think the Christian should be delivered from life's problems. We would like to do away with the very thing God wants to use to make us like Christ! Sometimes God does heal. Many others die from various sicknesses. We must let God be God.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, "An unblemished pearl is one of the most ancient symbols of perfection....The 1st-century Roman naturalist-philosopher Pliny the Elder speaks of pearls as 'the most sovereign commodity in the whole world.'"

But how do pearls become pearls? Here is what one article said:

"The mollusk's shell-secreting cells are located in the mantle...of its body; when a foreign particle penetrates the mantle, the cells attach to the particle and build up more or less concentric layers of pearl around it. If the foreign substance penetrates deeply enough, a sac or syst of tissue is first formed around it; the pearl building takes place within this sac. When the sac is not subjected to any deforming pressure, the pearl that develops inside it is either spherical or pearlike." Often if the particle does not penetrate deep enough the pearls are flat on one side.

Could someone quote Romans 8:28 for us?, "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. Such is the wisdom of God, that He accomplishes His purpose for the 'sinner' and the 'saint' with the same tool!

Consider gold. How is it refined? Here is what Amy Carmichael said: "One day we took the children to see a goldsmith refine gold after the ancient manner of the East. He was sitting beside his little charcoal fire. (He shall sit as a refiner: the gold or silversmith never leaves his crucible once it is on the fire.) In the red glow lay a common curved roof-tile; another tile covered it like a lid. This was the crucible. In it was the medicine made of salt, tamarind fruit and burnt brick-dust, and embedded in it was the gold. the medicine does its appointed work on the gold, 'then 'the fire eats it,' and the goldsmith lifts the gold out with a pair of tongs, lets it cool, rubs it between his fingers, and if not satisfied puts it back in fresh medicine. This time he blows the fire hotter than it was before, and each time he puts the gold into the crucible the heat of the fire is increased: 'It could not bear it so hot at first but it can bear it now; what would have destroyed it then helps it now.' 'How do you know when the gold is purified?' we asked him,

and he answered, 'when I can see my face in it [the liquid gold in the crucible] then it is pure.'

Now you and I might say, "Why do I have to suffer so much?" We might say, "Why does this or that person have to suffer so much?" Is he such a sinner? Oh, it may be. It may also be that God is bringing out the purest gold. Here is a person He can trust. This person will become one of His purest pieces of grace for His display.

Before I conclude this point let me say there are three major areas of life God uses to conform us to the image of Christ. These are family, life occupation or work, and church. One cannot be conformed to Christ the way God wants to without those three. We may be a Christian, but God is not able to work some things in us that He wants to work in us. I cannot overstress church. The church is God's greatest work on earth today and has been for some 2,000 years. And in the local Church God does some of His great work in us.

I cannot take time here, let me only say that today, sad to say, many cannot find a church that sticks to the Word of God.

## II. HOW TO HANDLE LIFE'S PROBLEMS

Our question now is, how is one to handle life's problems? The answer is that it is by faith. The first order of faith is to get saved by faith. The second order of faith is to overcome sin by faith. This is sanctification. How does one overcome sin by faith? When God helped Israel to drive the inhabitants of Canaan out of the land, he did it little by little. That is how we overcome sin, little by little. Let me give an example. When I was just saved, I had the habit of smoking. It was a big battle for me to overcome. I would win for a while, and then I gave in again. I began to learn to trust God that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and so when I had given in, I would confess it to God. One day I came to where I was about to give up and from there on, I began to win more and more until I got the victory. With regard to smoking I have been perfect now for about 50 years. In the meanwhile,

I have overcome many other things and today I meet things I have never met before and I am still growing.

But one of my greatest difficulties is learning to trust God in life's various difficult situations that come along and these come again and again. To live in victory requires faith, and this faith needs to be in the God of the Bible. So just what is faith? Faith is that which we believe to be true which we have not verified with any of the five senses.

For example, someone might say, "The earth is flat, or the earth is a round." And you have no opinion and you get interested and you start to search the evidence. And when you have researched the evidence you might say, "Well, based on the evidence I have, I believe it is..." and you give your conclusion.

In this message I take for granted that the listener believes there is a God and that this God is the God of the Bible. In this Bible you will find all kinds of people with all kinds of problems. And throughout these Scriptures you will find that to please God one has to learn to live by faith. God has instructed the just to live by faith. We have to learn to trust God with our problems by faith. Nothing will test our faith like trials and problems and difficulties. And furthermore, you will find that God is pleased with those who live by faith.

So, Romans 8:28 says that we know that all things work together for good to those that love God. We know then that even, if not especially, our problems work together for good to us if we love God; but if you are like I am, I find that hard to believe when things get tough.

Furthermore, you will find that it is not when everything is going well, that we need God; it is when things are going tough. J.C. Ryle has said, "It is a melancholy fact, that constant temporal prosperity, as a general rule, is injurious to a believer's soul. We cannot stand it. Sickness, and losses, and crosses, and anxieties, and disappointments seem absolutely needful to keep us humble, watchful, and spiritual-minded."

You may have heard of Joni Eriksen Tada. She dove into the water when she was 17 years old and became paralyzed from the shoulders down. She is now 70 years old and has suffered pain ever since her accident. She has suffered other things as well and she has said: "Yes, I pray that

my pain might be removed, that it might cease; but more so, I pray for the strength to bear it, the grace to benefit from it, and the devotion to offer it up to God as a sacrifice of praise.”

How does one live in victory with circumstances like that? No matter who we are, we all go through difficult things, and how can we overcome and win in the Christian faith? The word to overcome is used quite often in the NT. The word itself indicates difficulties. One does not need to overcome good things. One does not have to endure them, but one’s gravest danger is leaving God when life is like that. On the other hand, one has to overcome or endure in order to have the victory in difficulties.

When do we need faith? When we have things in life we cannot handle. What we do when we don’t have the Lord is we resort to worry or alcohol or drugs. Worry is an agitation of the mind that has no end; the mind is looping; it just goes round and round. The concern may be actual or potential.

A. Psalm 37:5

Psalm 37:5 has been a very special verse to me. We’ll read verses 1-4 first:

- 1 Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.
- 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.
- 3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
- 4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

This is a Psalm of David and he had many enemies. And he instructs the reader of this Psalm to not fret because of evildoers, and to not envy the workers of iniquity. Why not? They will soon be cut down like grass and wither very quickly.

We might put any worrisome case there instead of evildoers or workers of iniquity. But how does one handle these things that cause us to fret, that is they wear away on us. I have two saws called fretsaws. When you cut with a fretsaw it takes very little pieces of wood out at a time, but eventually it wears what you are cutting right off.

David then gives instruction on how to handle case that want to cause us to fret and wear us down. First, trust

in the Lord and do good. Dwell in the land and feed on the Lord's faithfulness. Now that is a little hard when you have a present worry. Then he says, "Delight yourself in the Lord." When we worry, our mind is caught up with that worry and it has no interest in delighting oneself in the Lord. But if we teach our mind to do that, then worry has to go because the mind is now occupied with something else. So, how does one obey this instruction?

Well, we go to verse 5 which says:

*5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.*

#### 1. Transfer

Well, the very first thing to do is to commit your way to the Lord. When he says, "your way", it means your path, or that which lies before you. When we worry, it has to do with the unknown before us. This unknown before us we are to commit to the Lord.

That brings us to ask, what does it mean to commit the path before us to the Lord? The Hebrew word means to roll, or roll away, or roll down. In the passage it says to roll it away, or down onto the Lord. I get the picture that it is a difficulty one cannot carry and to deal with it one is to roll it upon the Lord. I get it off myself and onto the Lord.

I have put it like this. Let us say I sold my land and my house and I have a \$600,000.00 dollar check in my possession. Anything might happen to that check and I am worried about its safety. Then I go to the bank and put it into my account. I have committed it to the bank. Once it is committed to the bank, it is their concern to keep it safe, not mine, and I don't worry about it anymore.

If my problem is such that I worry, I am to roll it upon the Lord; I am to commit it to Him. I call this point "transfer." I have transferred my

problem, the way before me to the Lord. But that is not all.

## 2. Trust

Now that I have transferred my problem, now I must begin to trust. The word to trust here means to have confidence in or be bold or secure. I am no longer worried because I have given my problem to the Lord and I am confident He will take care of it.

Let me illustrate what it means to trust the Lord in life's difficulties. There are times when it takes some doing, before I am ready to transfer my problem to the Lord. At other times it may take a short while, but now I am to trust Him with it until it is resolved and this may take a long time.

For an example of trusting we go to 2 Kings 18.

*<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign.*

*<sup>2</sup> He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah.*

*<sup>3</sup> And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.*

*<sup>4</sup> He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.*

Whenever you go against the devil, all may seem well at first but be assured the devil will raise up opposition to that work, and he may even get some of us to back down.

*<sup>5</sup> He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him.*

Hezekiah trusted in the Lord. There is our key. Well, things were OK and so it is not so hard to trust.

*<sup>6</sup> For he held fast to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses.*

*7 The LORD was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.*

*8 He subdued the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.*

*9 Now it came to pass in the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it.*

*10 And at the end of three years they took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, that is, the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.*

*11 Then the king of Assyria carried Israel away captive to Assyria, and put them in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes,*

*12 because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed His covenant and all that Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded; and they would neither hear nor do them.*

Samaria was the northern kingdom. The kingdom had split in two after Solomon's reign. Both the northern and southern kingdoms were Jewish. Together they made up the twelve tribes of Israel. God allowed Assyria to take the northern kingdom because they had disobeyed the Lord. I do not have time to describe how horrendous the treatment the Assyrians gave to those they conquered.

When we come to verse 13 it is 10 years after the northern kingdom went captive and Assyria is ruling the northern kingdom, which is right on the doorstep of where king Hezekiah is ruling.

Verse 13:

*13 And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.*

*13 And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.*

*14 Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; turn away from me; whatever you impose on me I will pay." And the king of Assyria assessed Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.*

*15 So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house.*

*16 At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.*

Hezekiah's trust in the Lord has crumbled. Why? Assyria has taken the northern kingdom, transported many of those people to Assyria and put Assyrians in the northern kingdom and he has been ruling there for 10 years. And after 10 years Assyria comes against Hezekiah's kingdom and he takes many of the towns around Jerusalem. And then Hezekiah becomes willing to pay Assyria if they will not come against him.

Verse 17:

*17 Then the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rabsaris, and the Rabshakeh from Lachish, with a great army against Jerusalem, to King Hezekiah. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they had come up, they went and stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, which was on the highway to the Fuller's Field.*

*18 And when they had called to the king, Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to them.*

*19 Then the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say now to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: "What confidence is this in which you trust?"*

Let me give you a picture of modern Iran or the Palestinians and other Arab countries. They try to defeat with great swelling words. They intimidate. And for Hezekiah there was ground for intimidation because they had defeated the northern kingdom and the cities close to Jerusalem.

Verse 20:

*20 "You speak of having plans and power for war; but they are mere words. And in whom do you **trust**, that you rebel against me?"*

*21 "Now look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.*

The Assyrian king says if you are trusting in Egypt to come and help you, you are trusting in someone who cannot help you.

Verse 22:

*22 "But if you say to me, 'We trust in the LORD our God,' is it not He whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away, and said to Judah and Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?'"*

Do you see what is happening? Hezekiah pulled down the altars of the false gods that his people had been worshipping. You can imagine that when Hezekiah destroyed those altars that the Jews who worshipped there would have been very upset with Hezekiah. And now Assyria is trying to divide the people from King Hezekiah, saying that the gods they had worshipped there were the true gods, but Hezekiah has said, "You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem." What that means is they were to come to Jerusalem to worship Jehovah God.

CONCL: We conclude for this time, and Lord willing, next Sunday we will finish the illustration of Hezekiah and look at a few more passages. So, let me ask, why is life filled with difficulties? First and foremost, it is to bring me to see my need for God. Our world is filled with people who do not see their need for God and as I see it, there is only one thing that will prepare them to be able to see that need, and that is life's difficulties.

When we become Christians we might think, and some might teach that we should be free from life's problems. They might say, "You are sick," or "You are out of money because of sin." Just trust God and you can ask for what you want and you will have it." But most of those get sick and die, and those who don't get sick die anyway. That doctrine is to miss the point of life's problems entirely.

When we become Christians, we are anything but like Jesus Christ. When we become Christians, a process has begun, and it is the process of making us like Christ. The problem with old preachers is they want to repeat things of the past and that is what I want to do right now.

I have used the illustration of polishing rocks. All you need to polish rocks is a rock tumbler; a little water, a little grit, and some rocks. I liken the water to the Word of God. The Bible talks about the washing of water by the Word of God (Eph. 5:26). The grit is like life's difficulties. It wears away very hard rocks. In a small tumbler you might put in several billions of pieces of grit. Its only about 3 tablespoons full, but there are many pieces of grit. And the rocks, what are they? Other

Christians. There is very little that will conform us to the image of Christ like other Christians.

And when you put in the first batch you turn the polisher on and it turns and it turns and it turns and it turns. For a week it turns 24-7. And then you open it up and what do you get? A bunch of dirty water! But then you wash the rocks off and the ugly lumps have been knocked off and they are beginning to take shape. And then you put in another finer kind of grit and you start off with clean water and clean rocks, and it wears and wears. And then you do it all over again, and then again. And after a month you open the polisher up for the last time and you still have dirty water. But then when you wash the rocks off, you have beautiful gems that glisten, they are all shiny and beautiful. What does it take to do that? The Word of God. Christians in church that you work with, and life's difficulties, millions of them!

And sometimes in life we just look up to God and say, "Would you please shut this thing down for once!" And it turns, and it turns. I ask you would you like out of God's tumbler already? Transfer. Then trust. And many times, you might triumph here in life, but the day is coming when the greatest of all triumphs will come. God will open the tumbler for the last time.