



# THE GIFT

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## Why We Like Problems • Romans 5:3-4

### MESSAGE NOTES

Because the problems turn into priceless treasure

#### 1. The Raw Materials

- Your life
- Gospel knowledge

#### 2. The Formation Process

- Pressure
- Time

#### 3. The Valuable Product

- Proven authenticity
- Increasing purity
- Growing certainty
- Eternal glory

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Romans 5:1-8

Do people normally like problems? Why or why not?

How does the illustration of a diamond being formed help you think about your problems?

Problems usually produce strong negative feelings and reactions in us. Why is this?

Verse 3 – “knowing” - The “Gospel knowledge” that we should focus on, according to the message, are the facts that we are justified in Christ and that God is at work in us through our problems. What are some ways we can stop being controlled by our negative feelings and reactions and start thinking about these Gospel truths? How can we help one another do this?

“Tribulation” in verse 3 means circumstances that put pressure on you. What kinds of circumstances do this? Would anyone like to share circumstances in your own life that are putting pressure on you?

“Perseverance” in verses 3-4 means enduring through the circumstances in order to allow God to work in your life through them. Why is this hard? What do we normally want to do? What are some keys to persevering? How can we help one another do this?

“Character” in verse 4 means proven authenticity. How do our problems allow us to prove out the genuineness of our relationship with God?

“Character” also includes the idea of becoming more pure, more Christlike through our problems. Let’s share some ways our problems have helped us become more Christlike.

“Hope” in verse 4 means: Our problems produce good things in our lives now. Because of this, we look forward to the ultimate outcome of this process. Every time we grow through our problems, we add to the glory that we will give to Jesus Christ in eternity. This encourages us to welcome God’s work in our lives through problems. In fact, we “glory in tribulations” (verse 3) because of these things. How does this help you? Do you find it natural to like problems? How do the truths we have learned give you hope?