

SINGLE ALLIANCE

Overcoming the Problems of Life- Pt. 3

I. Introduction

A. Last week we talked about overcoming people problems by the principles of prayer, our thought life, and doing what God tells us to do.

B. This week we will continue on and talk about overcoming circumstance problems

C. Negative circumstances arise from the devil, the fallen world, and even ourselves.

D. Many go up and down with the circumstances of life. God has better for you. You can stay steady no matter what is going on around you.

E. **Matt. 8:23-26**- God will either have your rest through the storm or have you use your authority to calm it! Paul had to ride a storm out. He was on a journey that he knew was not good, but he was not in authority to stop it. Sometimes we encounter storms because of other people. i.e. Economy problems because of other people. We have to deal with them now.

II. (Php 4:10) But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

A. Paul rejoiced not because he got money, but because he saw the effects of the grace of God in the Philippians.

B. **flourished again**- means to bud in the spring.

1. Paul had gone through a winter in his life when the natural resources he had looked to had dried up.

2. God will allow this to happen from time to time to cause us to look to Him and not anything else.

3. In the winter all visible activity ceases, but the roots continue to grow downwards.

C. **lacked opportunity**- lit. **not in season**- It was not the right season for the Philippians to send an offering. We need to be led in giving. We always tithe, but we need to be sensitive to the Spirit when to give and when not to.

1. We all are in different seasons

2. Winter is the season to sow- **Prov. 20:4** Don't spend all your last harvest!

3. The Philippians had sown in their winter- **2 Cor. 8:2-3**

4. My illustration of giving at Rhema

D. We often face financial circumstances that fluctuate. Sometimes more is coming in than other times. We must learn to be content even if we don't have the finances to buy that new flat screen T.V.

III. Php 4:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

A. Paul had learned in whatever state he was, to be content. Therefore, you can be content in Texas or Arkansas!

B. **content**- to draw from inner resources

1. Not from Paul's own, but from Christ within him!

2. Paul had a inner secret- **Ps. 92:12**

3. learned- we can only learn contentment in unfavorable circumstances.

IV. Php 4:12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

A. Circumstances go up and down. They are like the waves of the sea.

B. abased- **DOWN**, abound- **UP**, full- **UP**, hungry- **DOWN**, abound- **UP**, suffer need- **DOWN**

C. Most people are up and down with circumstances. The rudder of your ship is your tongue, but your heart will determine if you are capsized or not! How can our heart hold steady in the storms of life? Christians have a stabilizing power available to them on the inside if they will tap into it.

D. Spiritual gyroscope- a gyroscope is a big spinning wheel in the belly of a ship that keeps it nose from going down or being lifted up. It keeps the ship from tipping over on the right and on the left. It keeps the ship steady. A Christian has a spiritual gyroscope which is the Spirit of Christ. We cause this gyroscope to spin faster by meditating in the Word and prayer- especially in tongues.

V. Php 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

A. The power of Christianity is that you can drop a Christian in any environment and they can thrive! They live from the inside not the outside.

B. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us in the belly of our ship!

C. Again, it takes four times the spiritual input to do the will of God in our lives. I have learned, I know, I know, I learned- **I CAN DO!**

D. To overcome the circumstances of life we must learn to draw from Christ by spending intimate time with Him in the Word and prayer. He is your gyroscope!