DANIEL

July 19th / 20th, 2025
Pastor Steve

Thriving No Matter What

What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter. Isaiah 5:20

God stands up to open heaven's court. He pronounces judgment on the judges. How long will you judges refuse to listen to the evidence? How long will you shower special favors on the wicked? Give fair judgment to the poor man, the afflicted, the fatherless, the destitute. Rescue the poor and helpless from the grasp of evil men. But you are so foolish and so ignorant! Because you are in darkness, all the foundations of society are shaken to the core. Psalm 82:1-5

Daniel 1:1-7

What to Do When Problems Strike:

I Don't Be Surprised By _____.

A. Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. 1 Peter 4:12

B. I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world. John 16:33

C. 4 Sources for Every Problem in Your Life:

1) _____.

2) The _____.

3) _____.

4) _____.

II Consider How God Might Use It For _____.

A. For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

B. Sometimes God brings problems in my life to:

1) _____ me.

(a) But I, the LORD, search all hearts & examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve. Jeremiah 17:10

(b) Remember how the LORD your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands. Deuteronomy 8:2

(c) Ask: What does this problem reveal about me?

2) _____ me.

(a) Hebrews 12:8-11

(b) When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: “Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also.” This means that all of creation will be shaken & removed, so that only unshakable things will remain. Hebrews 12:26-27

(c) So, what a blessing when God steps in and corrects you! Mind you, don't despise the discipline of Almighty God! Job 5:17

(d) Ask: What is this problem teaching me?

3) _____ me.

(a) We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps. Proverbs 16:9

(b) "Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." Proverbs 20:30

(c) I thought about my life, and I decided to follow your rules. Psalm 119:59 (NCV)

(d) Ask: Where is this problem leading me?

4) _____ me.

(a) “God is leading you away from danger, Job, to a place free from distress... Job 36:16a

(b) You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. Genesis 50:20

(c) Ask: How could this problem be protecting me?

5) _____ me.

(a) “After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who calls you to share his eternal glory in union with Christ, will himself perfect you and give you firmness, strength, and a sure foundation.” 1 Peter 5:10 (TEV)

(b) We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems & trials, for we know that they are good for us —they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope & faith are strong & steady. Romans 5:3-4

(c) Ask: How can I grow from this problem?

III _____ God For What I Don’t Understand.

A. The LORD directs our steps, so why try to understand everything along the way? Proverbs 20:24

B. Trust the LORD with all your heart, and don't depend on your own understanding. Remember the LORD in all you do, and he will give you success. Proverbs 3:5-6

My Next Step Is:

- I'm deciding for Christ and accepting the free gift of Salvation!
- I'm recommitting my life to Christ.
- I will attend the rest of the Daniel series (as much as I'm able).
- I will memorize John 16:33.
- I will ask myself the 5 questions we discussed when facing a problem.