

GoLife200 | Lesson 18

Becoming Problem Solvers

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THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON the nature of problems and God’s intended role for them in our lives. It will also look at practical ways we can become problem solvers.

THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE The life of purpose and destiny to which God has called us in building our piece of the wall requires that we cultivate the disposition and skills to address and overcome obstacles that would keep us from being successful in Him.

KEY IDEAS:

- Power is Guarded by Problems
- Kingdom Perspective
- Key Attributes of a Problem Solver
- Conscious Competency

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prob·lem /prəbləm/ noun

A question raised for inquiry, consideration, or solution; something difficult to deal with; a source of trouble or worry; difficulty in understanding or accepting

I. The nature of problems:

- A. Power is guarded by problems. We need a redemptive view of problems and an understanding that our destiny can be revealed when we embrace problems as opportunities. God wants us to be equipped to solve problems biblically.
- B. Problems existed before the Fall, and God used them to strengthen and mature man (Genesis 2:19-20). Problems then took on an additional dynamic because of the effects of the curse (Genesis 3:17-19).
- C. The natural condition of the garden is weeds (Proverbs 24:30-34).
- D. God is totally sovereign over all human affairs. Our goal is to be further developed through our problems, not ruined by them.
- E. Problems teach us to recognize the complications arising from disobeying God and breaking spiritual or natural laws.
- F. Problems are cross-cultural and transcend many of the things that separate us (time, gender, religion, etc.). Problems provide an amazing opportunity for Christians to stand out as a distinct people.

**“Nothing”
is all we
have to do
for weeds
to grow.**

And he who overcomes, and keeps my works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations. —Revelation 2:26

Define a Term:

SOLUTION: *resolution; explanation; the act of explaining or removing difficulty or doubt; release; deliverance (Webster’s 1828)*

II. Understanding God’s purposes for problems: Problems are designed to empower us!

- A. Problems can be a doorway to destiny (see examples in Esther and in Genesis with the story of Joseph).
- B. There are two ways to solve problems: God’s way or man’s way.
- C. Problems will encourage us toward obedience and can lead to repentance.
- D. Problems teach us dependence on God and show us our limitations (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).

E. The Lord wants to fellowship with us and through the process.

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. —Philippians 3:10

III. How and why we solve problems: Attributes of a self-conscious problem solver:

- A. Attacks problems and the circumstances in which they develop
- B. Possesses a purposed drive for solution
- C. Skillfully applies principles and resources
- D. Puts in persistent effort that endures until completion. We must remember the importance of timing: Don't cut the cocoon too soon!
- E. Operates in a mode of discovery: Don't assume you know everything; seek to understand the full context.
- F. Takes up their cross daily (Luke 9:23) and is positioned to hear the Holy Spirit (John 16:13)
- G. Develops personal disciplines
- H. Asks for help and counsel (Proverbs 11:14)

IV. Responding to problems:

- A. Depending on our response, problems will either promote us or bind us.
- B. Through proper response to problems, we grow in responsibility.
- C. Problems guard us from touching new levels of responsibility until we are ready.
- D. Problems produce pressure that reveal where we are in our maturing process.
- E. Problems are a provision from God.
Only do not rebel against the LORD! You need not be afraid of the people of the land, for they are but food for us! Their protection has left them, but the LORD is with us. —Numbers 14:9
- F. Problems force us to understand and apply leadership and management skills with excellence.
- G. Problems provide an incredible opportunity for Christians as evangelists to stand as a distinct people in our attitude, approach, and success relative to problems.

Memory Verse:

"I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down. When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; so shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man."

—[Proverbs 24:30-34](#)
