

# How God Grows Me

## God Grows Me Through Problems

### 1 Peter 4:12-19

God's purpose is always greater than your problems!

## How God Uses Problems in My Life

### 1. God uses problems to \_\_\_\_\_ me

*“And Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.” (Genesis 39:20–21)*

*“And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.” (Acts 8:1)*

Ask: Where is this problem \_\_\_\_\_ me?

### 2. God uses problems to \_\_\_\_\_ me

*“And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.” (Deuteronomy 8:2)*

*“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:2–4)*

*“Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.” (Isaiah 48:10)*

Ask: What does this problem \_\_\_\_\_ about me?

**3. God uses problems to \_\_\_\_\_ me**

*“It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.” (Psalm 119:71)*

*“It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.” (Hebrews 12:7–10)*

Too often we are not willing to face the truth about ourselves until we are \_\_\_\_\_!

Ask: What is this problem \_\_\_\_\_ me?

- About \_\_\_\_\_
- About \_\_\_\_\_
- About \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. God uses problems to \_\_\_\_\_ me

*“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”*

(Romans 5:3–5)

Ask: How can I \_\_\_\_\_ from this problem?

The \_\_\_\_\_ you are asking God to change may be the very circumstances God is using to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The real problem is not your problem. The real problem is your \_\_\_\_\_ to the problem.

#### **Regardless of what you are going through right now:**

- God \_\_\_\_\_ the problem
- God \_\_\_\_\_ about your problem
- God has the \_\_\_\_\_ to change your problem
- God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ you through your problem

<p><b>God is more interested in my character than my comfort!</b></p>
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## **Making It Practical:**

The next time you face a problem ask...

1. Lord, are you using this problem to direct me? Where is this problem leading me?
2. Lord, are you using this problem to inspect me? What does this problem reveal about me?
3. Lord, are you using this problem to correct me? What is this problem teaching me?
4. Lord, are you using this problem to perfect me? How can I grow from this problem?