

## WHAT TO DO WITH A NAGGING PROBLEM

II CORINTHIANS 12:7-9

### INTRODUCTION

MY BROTHERS AND MY SISTERS, THIS MORNING I WANT TO MENTALLY MINGLE WITH YOU ABOUT THE PERSISTENT PROBLEMS THAT PARADE THE CORRIDORS OF OUR SAINTLY LIVES.

SOMEONE MAY BE ASKING WHO AM I TO HAND OUT ADVICE BY THE PLATE FULL?

I AM SIMPLY ONE WHOM GOD HAS TAUGHT HOW TO DEAL WITH NAGGING PROBLEMS. FOR I HAVE HAD MY SHARE, EVEN A DOUBLE PORTION, A SECOND HELPING, YES, SEVERAL SEQUELS OF LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS.

I'M TALKING ABOUT NAGGING PROBLEMS, THE ONES THAT REFUSE TO GO AWAY. YOU ARE ON MY FREQUENCY AREN'T YOU?

PLASTIC PEOPLE, SINISTER SAINTS, DIABOLICAL DEACONS, MESSY MISSIONARIES, FICKLE FRIENDS, SATANIC SUPERVISORS, AND KILL JOY KIN FOLKS.

YOU DO KNOW FOLK WILL KILL YOUR JOY IF YOU LET THEM.

TROUBLES, TROUBLES, TROUBLES; DOESN'T IT SEEM SOMETIMES AS IF LIFE IS A NEVER ENDING STREAM OF NONSTOP PROBLEMS AND TROUBLE?

AFTER ALL, YOU'VE GOT TROUBLES AND MORE TROUBLES POPPING UP VIRTUALLY EVERYWHERE LIKE FIRE ANTS COMING OUT OF A MOUND.

AND, AS IF HAVING MORE THAN YOUR FAIR SHARE OF TROUBLING SITUATIONS ISN'T ENOUGH BY ITSELF, YOU'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THIS POTPOURRI OF PROBLEMS.

MANY OF US ARE LIVING WITH DAILY DRAMA, PLAGUING PROBLEMS, AND BESETTING BURDENS THAT BOUNCE BACK LIKE A RUBBER BALL CAST AGAINST THE IMMOVEABLE AND UNYIELDING FORCE PRESENTED BY A BRICK WALL.

WE ARE A PROBLEM PLAGUED SOCIETY.

WE ARE AMERICANS WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM BACK PROBLEMS, BACK TAXES, BACK RENT, BACK AUTO PAYMENTS, BACK CHILD SUPPORT, BACK MORTGAGE PAYMENTS, AND BACK OVERDRAFT PROTECTION. WE ARE BACKED UP WITH PROBLEMS.

THEY ARE NAGGING PROBLEMS THAT TATTER LIKE A NASTY FLY TRYING TO GAIN ACCESS AT THE WINDOWS OF OUR HEARTS.

WE HAVE PROBLEMS THAT ARE PERSISTENT AND CONSISTENT.

PROBLEMS THAT OCCUR WITH UNNERVING FREQUENCY AND THAT ARE BULLDOG TENACIOUS.

I HAVE DISCOVERED THERE ARE PROBLEMS THAT WILL TAX OUR WILL POWER AND TEST OUR FAITH.

THEY WILL CREATE AN EGG-SHELL LIKE EXISTENCE WITHIN YOU THAT CAN CAUSE YOU TO BECOME TOO FRAGILE TO HANDLE.

AS SURE AS QUICK-SAND, PROBLEMS ARE AMONG US.

**HAVE YOU EVER AWAKENED TO DISCOVER YOUR PROBLEMS CLOSING IN ON YOU AS HUNGRILY AS ANY SHARK HAS EVER CLOSED ON ANY SWIMMER?**

**I DON'T MEAN TO UPSET ANYBODY, BUT SOME OF US ARE NAGGING PROBLEMS: ALWAYS TRYING TO BORROW MONEY, BORROW A CAR, TALK DISCOURAGINGLY TO THE CONGREGATION, RUNNING DOWN THE PREACHER AND THE CHURCH, NEVER SPEAKING AN ENCOURAGING WORD, AND DON'T TITHE.**

**DON'T LOOK AT THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU, BUT YOU WILL AGREE, SOME OF US, SOME OF OUR MEMBERS, SOME OF OUR FAMILIES, SOME OF OUR FRIENDS, ARE NOTHING SHORT OF NAGGING PROBLEMS.**

**WE HAVE NAGGING PROBLEMS OF FINANCES THAT CAN'T BE STRETCHED ANY LONGER, WHERE POOR PETER REFUSES TO BE ROBBED ANY LONGER FOR THE SAKE OF POOR PAUL.**

**HAVE YOU BEEN THERE WHERE YOUR BILLS ARE PAST DUE AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO?**

**I WANT TO SUGGEST TO YOU IT IS NAGGING WHEN A GALLON OF MILK EXCEEDS \$3.00.**

**WHAT'S BABY GOING TO DO? IF IT WEREN'T FOR WIC, LITTLE JOHNNY, ALLOW ME TO NAME THEM LIKE WE DO. LITTLE JOHNNITE', PRONOUNCED (JOE KNEE TAY) JACQUEZ AS WE WOULD NAME HIM, AND SWEET SALLY, SHONIQUE'A ANTW'NIQUE, WOULD REALLY BE UP A CREEK.**

**-ITS NAGGING WHEN THE PRICE OF A GALLON OF GAS DICTATES NOT ONLY WHERE YOU GO BUT ALSO WHAT CAR YOU DRIVE.**

**IT BOTHERS ME WHEN YOU CAN'T BE LUXURIOUS IN YOUR CADILLAC THAT GETS 19 MILES PER GALLON AND HAVE**

TO DRIVE YOUR NISSAN TRUCK BECAUSE IT GETS 32 MILES A GALLON BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY GAS YOU CAN AFFORD. IT NAGS YOU.

-IT'S NAGGING WHEN SICKNESS SETS IN. ARTHRITIS, RHEUMATISM, BACKACHE, HEADACHE, BURSITIS, CANCER, DIABETES, CHITTERLING AND CHURCH'S FRIED CHICKEN DISEASE, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, AND ULCERS THAT SOME OF YOU HAVE CAUSED.

I TELL YOU WHEN YOUR BACK GOES OUT MORE THAN YOU DO, IT IS WITHOUT A DOUBT NAGGING.

-IT'S NAGGING WHEN YOU, LIKE PAUL, HAVE A THORN IN YOUR FLESH, BUT THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS THAT ARE NOT IN YOUR FLESH BUT VERY QUICKLY GET UNDER YOUR SKIN.

CAN I GO THERE? WHEN LITTLE BOYS AND LITTLE GIRLS TRY TO TAKE OVER THE SCHOOL, CAN'T-NO, I MEAN WON'T SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP, IT'S NAGGING TO A TEACHER.

I TELL YOU WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE, YOUR MAMA OR YOUR DADDY NEED TO URGENTLY COME DOWN TO THE SCHOOL AND TAKE CARE OF THE PLACE THEY USED TO TALCUM SO GENTLY WITH POWDER AND TREAT IT NOT SO GENTLY BECAUSE YOU HAVE BECOME A NAGGING PROBLEM.

-IT'S NAGGING THAT FOLK ARE OFF ON TUESDAY NIGHTS BUT WON'T COME TO BIBLE STUDY. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE THERE?

WE'RE HERE EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT AT 7:00 P.M. AND I INVITE ALL OF YOU TO JOIN US.

IT'S NAGGING HOW GOD CAN BE SO GOOD TO US AND WE CARRY ON AND CONTINUE ON IGNORING HIS CHURCH AND NEGLECTING HIS WORD.

**THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I SEEM TO BE CAUGHT IN THE SPIDER WEB OF THIS PROBLEMATIC AND PLAGUING DILEMMA.**

**THEY SEEM TO ASSAULT US WITH UNNERVING FREQUENCY.**

**SO I DARE NOT SQUANDER THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BIBLICALLY INSTRUCT YOU ON “WHAT TO DO WITH A NAGGING PROBLEM.”**

**DO INQUIRING MINDS REALLY WANT TO KNOW? WELL, THE FIRST THING YOU MUST DO IS:**

**(I). TELL IT TO JESUS:**

**(A). INSTEAD OF SHAKING AND QUAKING WHEN TROUBLE COMES A CALLING, WE MUST GET IN A HURRY AND INFORM JESUS ABOUT OUR PROBLEMS.**

- (1). YES, WE TELL IT TO EVERYONE BUT JESUS.**
- (2). WE TELL THE BARBER SHOP DELEGATION,**
- (3). WE TELL SISTER GIRL AND BROTHER MAN,**
- (4). WE TELL THE HELP HOTLINE,**
- (5). WE TELL THE MOTHER OF THE CHURCH,**
- (6). WE TELL THE PSYCHIC HOTLINE THAT IS NOT *PSYCHIC* ENOUGH TO *KNOW* YOU WERE GOING TO CALL.**
- (7). WE TELL OUR CUSTOMERS AND BEAUTICIANS, PEOPLE WHO *CAN'T* EVEN SOLVE THEIR *OWN* PROBLEMS.**
- (8). WE NEED TO TELL IT TO JESUS.**

**(B). TOO MANY OF US TREAT GOD LIKE HE IS A BILL COLLECTOR.**

- (1). ABRAHAM MASLOW SAID, “WHEN THE ONLY TOOL YOU OWN IS A HAMMER, EVERY PROBLEM BEGINS TO RESEMBLE A NAIL.”**
- (2). IN OTHER WORDS WHEN YOU TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER YOU REALIZE HE CAN HANDLE IT.**
- (3). WHEN JESUS IS ALL YOU HAVE YOU WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DISCOVER JESUS IS ALL YOU NEED.**
- (4). ANYBODY HERE HAVE A NEED IN THEIR LIFE?**

**(C). IN PRAYER, WE NEED TO TELL JESUS ABOUT OUR NAGGING PROBLEMS.**

- (1). PRAYER IS A SALVE FOR EVERY SORE,**
- (2). PRAYER IS A REMEDY FOR EVERY MALADY, AND WHEN WE ARE AFFLICTED WITH THORNS IN THE FLESH, WE SHOULD GIVE OURSELVES TO PRAYER.**
- (3). AS A CHILD OF GOD, PRAYER IS KIND OF LIKE CALLING HOME EVERY DAY.**
- (4). I DO ALL I CAN TO CALL MY MOTHER EVERYDAY.**
- (5). I LIKE TO HEAR HER VOICE AND KNOW SHE IS ALRIGHT.**
- (6). AND EVERY NOW AND THEN I GET THE EXPERIENCE OF HER YEARS.**

- (7). CAN I ASK YOU, “ HAVE YOU PHONED HOME TODAY?”

### ILLUSTRATION

IN THE 70’S, IN THE MOVIE E.T., HE WAS INSTRUCTED IN A FAMOUS LINE “E.T. PHONE HOME.”

- (D). SOMEBODY HERE OF NECESSITY NEEDS TO PHONE THEIR HEAVENLY HOME THROUGH PRAYER AND TELL JESUS ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS. HAVE I GOT A WITNESS?
- (1). YOU CAN PRAY FOR ANY NEED,
  - (2). YOU CAN PRAY FOR LENGTHENED LIFE, AS HEZEKIAH DID;
  - (3). YOU CAN PRAY FOR HELP, AS DANIEL DID;
  - (4). YOU CAN PRAY FOR LIGHT, AS BLIND BARTIMAEUS DID;
  - (5). YOU CAN PRAY FOR MERCY, AS DAVID DID;
  - (6). YOU CAN PRAY FOR RAIN, AS ELIJAH DID;
  - (7). YOU CAN PRAY FOR A SON, AS HANNAH DID;
  - (8). AND YOU CAN PRAY FOR GRACE, AS PAUL DID.
- (E). YOU CAN PRAY, ANYWHERE TOO;
- (1). YOU CAN PRAY IN THE DEEP, LIKE JONAH;
  - (2). YOU CAN PRAY ON THE ROOFTOP, LIKE PETER;

- (3). YOU CAN PRAY ON YOUR BED, LIKE HEZEKIAH;
  - (4). YOU CAN PRAY ON THE MOUNTAIN, LIKE JESUS;
  - (5). YOU CAN PRAY IN THE WILDERNESS, LIKE HAGAR;
  - (6). YOU CAN PRAY IN THE STREET, LIKE JAIRUS;
  - (7). YOU CAN PRAY IN THE CAVE, LIKE DAVID;
  - (8). YOU CAN PRAY ON THE CROSS, LIKE THE DYING THIEF.
- (F). YOU CAN PRAY ANYHOW:
- (1). YOU CAN PRAY SHORT AS PETER AND THE PUBLICAN DID;
  - (2). YOU CAN PRAY LONG LIKE MOSES AT THE CONSECRATION OF THE TABERNACLE, OR SOLOMON AT THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE.
  - (3). YOU CAN PRAY IN SILENCE, AS HANNAH DID IN THE TEMPLE;
  - (4). YOU CAN PRAY IN YOUR SECRET THOUGHTS, AS NEHEMIAH DID BEFORE DARIUS;
  - (5). OR YOU CAN PRAY ALOUD, AS DID THE SYRO-PHOENICIAN WOMAN;
  - (6). YOU CAN PRAY IN TEARS, AS MAGDALENE DID;

- (7). YOU CAN PRAY IN GROANS OR SONGS, AS DAVID DID.
- (G). YOU CAN PRAY ANY TIME:
- (1). YOU CAN PRAY IN THE MORNING, AS DAVID DID;
  - (2). YOU CAN PRAY AT NOON, AS DANIEL DID;
  - (3). YOU CAN PRAY AT MIDNIGHT, AS PAUL AND SILAS DID;
  - (4). YOU CAN PRAY IN CHILDHOOD, AS SAMUEL DID;
  - (5). YOU CAN PRAY IN YOUTH, AS TIMOTHY DID;
  - (6). YOU CAN PRAY IN MANHOOD, AS THE CENTURION DID;
  - (7). YOU CAN PRAY IN OLD AGE, AS SIMEON DID;
  - (8). YOU CAN PRAY IN SICKNESS, AS JOB DID;
  - (9). OR, YOU CAN PRAY IN DEATH, LIKE JACOB AND THE DYING CHRIST.”
  - (10). SOMEBODY IN THE CHURCH THIS MORNING NEEDS TO INITIATE PRAYER ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, AND ANYHOW.

**LOOK AT YOUR NEIGHBOR AND SAY PRAY ABOUT YOUR NAGGING PROBLEM. “TELL IT TO JESUS.”**

(I). TELL IT TO JESUS:

(II). TAKE IT TO JESUS:

(A). WITH THE SWIFTESS OF A GENIE'S SPIRIT RISING FROM THE PRISON OF HIS LAMP, SOMEBODY HERE NEEDS TO TAKE THEIR NAGGING PROBLEMS TO JESUS.

(1). WHEN I HAVE THORNS IN MY FLESH, AND NAGGING PROBLEMS IN MY LIFE;

(2). WHEN PRESSURE PENETRATES MY WORLD, AND WHEN MY WORLD IS ABOUT TO FRAGMENT;

(3). AND WHEN I FEEL LIKE MY SEAMS ARE UNRAVELING, JESUS IS MY MEDICATION OF CHOICE.

(4). I DON'T NEED VALIUMS, ALCOHOL, UPPERS OR DOWNERS, DRUGS, SEX, INHALANTS, OR ANY OTHER TEMPORARY FIX, I NEED JESUS. JESUS WILL FIX IT.

GOD, AS OUR CREATOR KNOWS HOW TO FIX US WHEN OUR LIVES ARE BROKEN BY SIN. SO, "TAKE IT TO JESUS."

(I). TELL IT TO JESUS:

(II). TAKE IT TO JESUS:

(III). TURN IT OVER TO JESUS

(A). IF YOU SEE TEN TROUBLES COMING DOWN THE ROAD, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT NINE WILL

**RUN INTO THE DITCH BEFORE THEY REACH YOU.**

- (1). MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IT'S TIME TO FESS UP. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU WORRIED, FRETTED AND MADE YOURSELF SICK OVER SOMETHING THAT NEVER CAME TO PASS?
  - (2). AND, ON HOW MANY OTHER COUNTLESS OCCASIONS HAVE YOU ANTICIPATED TROUBLE WELL IN ADVANCE, ONLY TO BE RELIEVED THAT TROUBLE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO PASS YOU BY?
- (B). WITH EVERY PASSING DAY, I BECOME INCREASINGLY CONVINCED TROUBLE DOESN'T LAST ALWAYS.
- (C). WITH EVERY PASSING DAY, I BECOME INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT TEARS ARE ONLY TEMPORARY AND JOY IS THE ONLY PERMANENT REALITY.
- (D). WITH EVERY PASSING DAY, I BECOME INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT GOD IS ABLE TO CARRY ME THROUGH, I'VE TRIED HIM AND I KNOW THAT HE WILL.
- (1). JESUS SAYS IN;[MATTHEW 11: 28] "*COME UNTO ME, ALL YE THAT LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. [29] TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN OF ME; FOR I AM MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART: AND YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS. [ 30] FOR MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT.*"
- (E). YES, TURN IT OVER TO JESUS AND REHEARSE THE LYRICS OF ANDRE CROUCH:

**“I’VE BEEN TO LOTS OF PLACES,  
 AND I’VE SEEN A LOT OF FACES.  
 THERE’VE BEEN TIMES I FELT SO ALL ALONE,  
 BUT IN MY LONELY HOURS,  
 YES, THOSE PRECIOUS LONELY HOURS,  
 JESUS LET ME KNOW I WAS HIS OWN.  
 I THANK GOD FOR THE MOUNTAINS  
 AND I THANK HIM FOR THE VALLEYS,  
 I THANK HIM FOR THE STORMS  
 HE BROUGHT ME THROUGH,  
 FOR IF I’D NEVER HAD A PROBLEM,  
 I WOULDN’T KNOW THAT HE COULD SOLVE THEM,  
 I’D NEVER KNOW WHAT FAITH IN GOD COULD DO.**

**I FEEL LIKE SHOUTING NOW BECAUSE THROUGH IT ALL.  
 LOOK AT SOMEBODY AND SAY “THROUGH IT ALL, AND  
THAT’S NOT ALL.**

**YOU SEE THAT PROBLEM THAT I HAD, THAT PAIN THAT  
WOULD NOT MOVE.**

**I TRIED AND I TRIED LORD BUT I KEPT GETTING DEEPER  
INVOLVED.**

**BUT THEN I TURNED IT OVER TO JESUS. I TURNED IT OVER  
 TO JESUS, I TURNED IT OVER TO THE LORD AND  
HE WORKED IT OUT.**

**DO WHAT PAUL DID AND “TURN IT OVER TO JESUS.”**

- (I). TELL IT TO JESUS:**
- (II). TAKE IT TO JESUS:**
- (III). TURN IT OVER TO JESUS**
- (IV). TRUST IT WITH JESUS**

- (A). PAUL DID RECEIVE HIS ANSWER TO HIS PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE, GOD SAID NO! I WON'T TAKE IT AWAY.
- (1). I THANK GOD FOR THE THINGS IN MY LIFE HE DIDN'T TAKE AWAY.
  - (2). BECAUSE IF I NEVER HAD A PROBLEM, I WOULDN'T KNOW THAT GOD COULD SOLVE IT. I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT A LITTLE FAITH IN HIS WORD CAN DO.
  - (3). BUT THANK GOD THROUGH IT ALL, I SAY THROUGH IT ALL, I'VE LEARNED TO TRUST IN JESUS, I'VE LEARNED TO TRUST IN GOD.
  - (4). YES THROUGH IT ALL, THROUGH IT ALL, I'VE LEARNED TO DEPEND UPON HIS WORD.
- (B). MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS I'VE FOUND OUT THAT IF YOU TRUST HIM HE WILL PROVIDE.
- (1). SO, AS IT RELATES TO YOUR OWN PERSONAL THORN;
    - (a). LIVE WITH IT.
    - (b). GET USED TO IT.
    - (c). GET OVER IT.
    - (d). GET ON WITH YOUR LIFE.
    - (e). OVERCOME IT.

- (2). GOD TOLD PAUL, “MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT TO BRING YOU THROUGH VICTORIOUSLY DESPITE YOUR THORN.”
- (C). I DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU BUT I’M NOT REAL HAPPY ABOUT THE ANSWER GOD GAVE TO PAUL BECAUSE GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS.
- (1). THAT MEANS THAT WHEN MY “THORN” COMES, GOD SOMETIMES SAYS NO TO ME TOO.
- (2). WHEN GOD DOES NOT TAKE AWAY OUR TROUBLES AND TEMPTATIONS, YET, IF HE GIVES GRACE ENOUGH FOR US, WE HAVE NO REASON TO COMPLAIN.
- (3). GRACE SIGNIFIES THE GOODWILL OF GOD TOWARDS US, AND THAT IS ENOUGH TO ENLIGHTEN AND ENLIVEN US,
- (4). THAT IS SUFFICIENT TO STRENGTHEN AND COMFORT US IN ALL AFFLICTIONS AND DISTRESSES.
- (5). HIS STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN OUR WEAKNESS. THUS HIS GRACE IS MANIFESTED AND MAGNIFIED.
- (D). THE REQUESTS WE MAKE TO GOD ARE NOT UNHEARD BECAUSE WE DO NOT RECEIVE THE ANSWER WHEN WE EXPECT THEM.
- (1). “IF THE SHIPS OF PRAYER DO NOT COME HOME SPEEDILY,” SAYS ONE WRITER, “IT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE HEAVILY FREIGHTED WITH BLESSINGS.”

- (2). **THE GREATER THE DIFFICULTY, THE MORE GLORY THERE IS IN SURMOUNTING IT.**
- (3). **SKILLFUL PILOTS GAIN THEIR REPUTATION FROM STORMS AND TEMPESTS.**
- (4). **IN THE MIDST OF MY NAGGING PROBLEM, I'M GAINING MY REPUTATION AS I WEATHER MY STORM.**
- (5). **I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I WILL TRUST IN THE LORD.**

***[JOB 13:15] SAYS, "THOUGH HE SLAY ME, YET WILL I TRUST IN HIM; BUT I WILL MAINTAIN MINE OWN WAYS BEFORE HIM."***

***[PSALM 32:10] "MANY SORROWS SHALL BE TO THE WICKED; BUT HE THAT TRUSTETH IN THE LORD, MERCY SHALL COMPASS HIM ABOUT."***

***[PSALM 34:8] "O TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD:BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT TRUSTETH IN HIM."***

***[PSALM 37:5] "COMMIT THY WAY UNTO THE LORD; TRUST ALSO IN HIM; AND HE SHALL BRING IT TO PASS"***

### **CONCLUSION**

- (A). **AS I TAKE MY SEAT, CAN I TELL YOU ABOUT GOD'S GRACE?**
  1. **GRACE GIVES THE POOR WONDROUS PATIENCE AND TRUST.**
  2. **GRACE MAKES THE SICK MAN OR WOMAN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT MINISTERING TO**

**SOMEBODY ELSE THAN COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR SICKNESS.**

3. **GRACE WOOS THE ANGRY VIOLENT MAN AND CALMS THE BEAST WITHIN.**
4. **GRACE LOVES THE HELL OUT OF US.**
5. **GRACE HOLDS US LIKE A WOMB, SAFE WHILE WE GROW.**
6. **WE CAN GO THROUGH THE VALLEY AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH BY THE GRACE OF GOD.**
7. **IT IS SUFFICIENT FOR WHAT EVER WE MUST FACE.**

(B). **CAN I HURRY UP AND TELL YOU EXTRAORDINARY GRACE COMES WITH EXTRAORDINARY CHALLENGES AND *WILL NOT* MANIFEST ITSELF UNTIL YOU ARE IN A STRUGGLE.**

1. **IT IS EASY TO BELIEVE IN PAST GRACE AND HOPE FOR FUTURE GRACE, BUT TRUSTING THAT GOD IS GOING TO HOLD US UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PRESENT MESS IS A *TRUE* CHALLENGE TO OUR FAITH.**
2. **I BELIEVE GOD IS HOLDING ME UP. MY PROBLEMS ARE PRESSING ME DOWN, BUT GOD IS HOLDING ME UP.**
- (3). **I HEARD THE PSALMIST SAY IN [139:9-10] “*IF I TAKE THE WINGS OF THE MORNING, AND DWELL IN THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE SEA; [10] EVEN THERE SHALL THY HAND LEAD ME, AND THY RIGHT HAND SHALL HOLD ME.*”  
GOD’S GRACE IS UNLIMITED.**

- (C). **GRACE IS UNMERITED, YOU CANNOT EARN IT.**
- (1). **GRACE IS MAKING YOUR TROUBLE USEFUL TO YOU AND MAKING YOU TRIUMPHANT OVER IT.**
  - (2). **GRACE IS PREPARED TO BRING YOU OUT OF A THOUSAND MORE DIFFICULTIES JUST LIKE THIS ONE UNTIL YOU SEE JESUS.**
  - (3). **GRACE IS SUFFICIENT TO AVERT WHATEVER WOULD HARM YOU.**
  - (4). **GRACE IS READY TO SUPPLY WHATEVER IS GOOD FOR YOU.**
  - (5). **HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT.**
  - (6). **I MADE IT UP IN MY MIND “I WILL TRUST IN THE LORD UNTIL I DIE.”**
- (D). **IS THERE ANYBODY HERE THIS MORNING COMMITTED TO TRUSTING IN GOD?**
- (1). **THROUGH THE STORM AND THE RAIN, THROUGH HEARTACHE AND PAIN, YOU OUGHT TO TRUST HIM.**
  - (2). **THROUGH SICKNESS AND SORROW, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TRUST GOD.**
  - (3). **TELL IT TO JESUS—JESUS IS ON THE MAINLINE, TELL HIM WHAT YOU WANT.**
  - (4). **AND I HEARD THE SONGWRITER SAY...**

**”I MUST TELL JESUS, I MUST TELL JESUS  
I CANNOT BEAR THESE BURDENS ALONE.  
IN MY DISTRESS HE KINDLY WILL HELP ME,  
HE EVER LOVES AND CARES FOR HIS OWN.”**

**(E). TAKE IT TO JESUS:**

1. [PSALM 55:22] *“CAST THY BURDEN UPON THE LORD, AND HE SHALL SUSTAIN THEE: HE SHALL NEVER SUFFER THE RIGHTEOUS TO BE MOVED.”*

**(F). TURN IT OVER TO JESUS-IF YOU HAVE ANY LONG STANDING PROBLEMS, TRY KNEELING.**

1. IF YOU HAVE ISSUES THAT WON'T GO AWAY-KNEEL.
2. IF YOU ARE CAUGHT IN THE GRIP OF A PROBLEM AND HAVE BEEN THERE A LONG TIME-KNEEL,
3. IF YOU HAVE BURDENS THAT ARE PRESSING YOU DOWN-KNEEL,
4. IF YOU HAVE PERPLEXITIES THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND-KNEEL,
5. IF YOU HAVE PRESSURE THAT'S PULLING YOU APART-KNEEL.
6. WHEN YOU ARE TANGLED UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A NAGGING PROBLEM, KNEEL AND BE STILL.

**REMEMBER WHAT MOSES SAID TO ISRAEL. [EXODUS 14:13] “AND MOSES SAID UNTO THE PEOPLE, FEAR YE NOT, STAND STILL, AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD, WHICH HE WILL SHEW TO YOU TODAY; FOR THE EGYPTIANS WHOM YE HAVE SEEN TODAY, YE SHALL SEE THEM AGAIN NO MORE FOREVER.”**

7. HALLELUJAH, *BE STILL* AND TURN IT OVER TO JESUS.

**“THAT PROBLEM THAT I HAD, THAT PAIN THAT WOULD *NOT* MOVE,**

**I TRIED AND I TRIED BUT I KEPT GETTING DEEPER INVOLVED.**

**BUT THEN I TURNUED IT OVER TO JESUS, AND I STOPPED WORRING ABOUT IT;**

**I TURNUED IT OVER TO THE LORD, AND HE WORKED IT OUT.**

8. **YES, I TURNUED IT OVER TO HIM.**
9. **WILL *YOU* TURNUED IT OVER TO HIM?**
10. **I TURNUED IT OVER TO THE LORD, AND I FOUND OUT, THAT GOD’S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR MY NEED, FOR MY NAGGING PROBLEM.**

**I TURNUED IT OVER TO THE LORD AND HE WORKED IT OUT. AND THAT’S WHAT YOU DO WITH A NAGGING PROBLEM!**

### **ILLUSTRATION**

**IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE AUTOMOBILE, A MAN’S MODEL-T FORD STALLED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD.**

**HE COULDN’T GET IT STARTED NO MATTER HOW HARD HE CRANKED NOR HOW MUCH HE TRIED TO ADVANCE THE SPARK OR ADJUST THINGS UNDER THE HOOD.**

**JUST THEN A CHAUFFEURED LIMOUSINE PULLED UP BEHIND HIM, AND A WIRY, ENERGETIC MAN STEPPED OUT FROM THE BACK SEAT AND OFFERED HIS ASSISTANCE.**

**AFTER TINKERING FOR A FEW MOMENTS THE STRANGER SAID, “NOW TRY IT!” IMMEDIATELY THE ENGINE LEAPED TO LIFE.**

**THE WELL-DRESSED INDIVIDUAL THEN IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS HENRY FORD.**

**“I DESIGNED AND BUILT THESE CARS,” HE SAID, “SO I KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN SOMETHING GOES WRONG.”**