



SPIRITUAL LIFE AND MESSAGE FOR APRIL 2018

G. Bernice Richardson, Secretary

Opening Song: "God Is A Good God"

God is a good God. He's a great God. He can do anything but fail. He has moved so many mountains out of my way. God is a wonderful God.

Prayer: (As led by the Holy Spirit)

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:7-11

Meditation: "God's Ways"

Here are five ways God wants to use the problems in your life:

1. God uses problems to **DIRECT** you: Sometimes God must light a fire under you to get you moving. Problems often point us in a new direction and motivate us to change. Is God trying to get your attention? ***"Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways."*** **Proverbs 20:39**
2. God uses problems to **INSPECT** you: People are like tea bags....You don't know how strong they are until they get in hot water! Has God ever tested your faith with a problem? What do problems reveal about you? ***"When you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience."*** **James 1:2-3**
3. God uses problems to **CORRECT** you: Some lessons we learn only through pain and failure. It's likely that as a child your parents told you not to touch a hot stove. But you probably learned by being burned. Sometimes we only learn the value of something health, money, a relationship....by losing it. ***"It was the best thing that could have happened to***

me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws." **Psalms: 71-72**

4. God uses problems to **PROTECT** you: A problem can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents you from being harmed by something more serious. Last year a friend was fired for refusing to do something unethical that her boss had asked her to do. Her unemployment was a problem, but it saved her from being convicted and sent to prison a year later when management's actions were eventually discovered. ***"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good."*** **Genesis 50:20**
5. God uses problems to **PERFECT** you: Problems, when responded to correctly, are character builders. God is far more interested in your character than our comfort. Your relationship to God and your character are the only two things you're going to take with you into eternity. ***"We can rejoice when we run into problems.....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 and faith are strong and steady."*** **Romans 5:34**

Here's the point: God is at work in your life even when you do not recognize it or understand it. But, it's much easier and profitable when you cooperate with **Him!**

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord,
We thank you for all your ways that **Direct, Inspect, Correct, Protect, and Perfect** us. Amen