

## The Christian Perspective on Problems in Life

*"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going."*

II Corinthians 4:8-9 (TLB)

### I. Introduction

*"The art of living lies less in eliminating our troubles than in growing with them."---Bernard Baruch*

*"God never promises to remove us from our struggles. He does promise, however, to change the way we look at them."---Max Lucado*

### II. Identifying the Sources of Problems in Life

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, sometimes doing things I absolutely despise..." Romans 7:15 (MSG)*
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, He will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out." I Corinthians 10:13 (TEV)*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"For everything there is a season, **a time for every activity under heaven**...A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance...He sets the time for finding and the time for losing, the time for saving and the time for throwing away." Ecclesiastes 3:1; 4; 6 (NLT)*
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world." I Peter 5:8-9 (NKJV)*

### III. Satan's Objectives as It Concerns the Believer

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ the believer of his/her wealth (purpose or destiny)
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ the believer from victoriously walking with Jesus
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ the believer in his/her successful spiritual warfare

### IV. God's Parameters on Satan---What He *Can* And *Can't* Do!

*What Satan cannot do...*

1. He cannot cause you to \_\_\_\_\_

2. He cannot \_\_\_\_\_

3. He cannot \_\_\_\_\_

4. He cannot \_\_\_\_\_

What Satan can do...

1. He can continually weaken \_\_\_\_\_ through the flesh.

*"Then Delilah pouted, "How can you tell me, 'I love you,' when you don't share your secrets with me...She tormented Samson with her nagging **day after day** until he was sick to death of it. Finally, Samson shared his secret with her...Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way she began to bring him down, and his strength left him. Then she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" **When he woke up, he thought, "I will do as before and shake myself free." But he didn't realize the LORD had left him.**" Judges 16:15-17; 19-20 (NLT)*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ through un-ordained worldly entanglements.

*"Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful." Mark 4:18-19 (NKJV)*

*"Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And **what communion has light with darkness?** And what accord has Christ with Belial? **Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?** And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God." II Corinthians 6:14-16 (NKJV)*

3. Attempt to eliminate our \_\_\_\_\_ through softness and compromise.

*"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." I John 2:15-17 (NKJV)*

***"I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church."---Charles Spurgeon***

4. Use his arsenal to \_\_\_\_\_ the believer and paralyze him through \_\_\_\_\_

*"Then I heard a loud voice saying...the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down." Revelation 12:10 (NKJV)*

*"A girl, seeing Peter as he sat by the fire...said, "This man was also with Him." But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him...Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So Peter went out and wept bitterly." Luke 22:56-62 (NKJV)*

## **ANSWER KEY:**

### **II. Identifying the Sources of Problems in Life**

1. The flesh
2. The Holy Spirit
3. Life
4. Satan

### **III. Satan's Objectives as It Concerns the Believer**

defraud---decoy---disable

### **IV. God's Parameters on Satan---What He *Can* And *Can't* Do!**

#### ***He cannot...***

1. Backslide
2. Send anyone to hell
3. Change God's mind about you
4. Tempt/test you above what God allows

#### ***HE CAN...***

1. Our spiritual resistance
2. Ruin our defenses
3. Effectiveness
4. Accuse-----condemnation