



## Part 9: Experiences

“Discovering where I have been ”

“The marvelous richness of human experience would lose something of rewarding joy if there were no \_\_\_\_\_ to overcome. The hilltop hour would not be so wonderful if there were not \_\_\_\_\_ to traverse.” Helen Keller

“Life can only be understood \_\_\_\_\_, but it must be lived \_\_\_\_\_.”  
Soren Kierkegaard

**Rom 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

**Remember:** God does not always define success in the \_\_\_\_\_ that the world does. What may seem insignificant or a failure to the world may be deemed by God as an incredible victory. He reckons things in terms of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

### Positive Experiences

**Think back over your past and then write down three significant achievements/experiences in each area** (remember: significant to you – not necessarily to the world):

#### Personal Achievements:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Vocational Achievements:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Relational Achievements:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Educational Achievements:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Spiritual Achievements:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**After completing this list of 15 experiences,** select the top three and briefly describe the experience including the major facts and feelings you experienced during this great time in your life.

1.

2.

3.

**Painful Experiences**

**God never \_\_\_\_\_ a hurt!** Everything that happens to us ultimately happens for a \_\_\_\_\_. Even though God doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ everything that comes into our lives (many of these things are the results of our choices), He does \_\_\_\_\_ everything to make us who we are and to equip us to minister to others.

***Think back over your past and then write down three (as many as you can remember) painful experiences in each area.***

**Personal Points of Pain:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Vocational Points of Pain:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Relational Points of Pain:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Educational Points of Pain:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Spiritual Points of Pain:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**As you did before,** review these 15 experiences and select the three most painful/significant and then write a brief description of those experiences.

**1.**

**2.**

3.

**The key: learning how to turn a \_\_\_\_\_ into a \_\_\_\_\_**

“God sees our lives from beginning to end. He may lead us through a storm at age thirty so we can endure a hurricane at age sixty. An instrument is useful only if it’s in the right shape. A dull ax or a bent screwdriver needs attention, and so do we. A good blacksmith keeps his tools in shape. So does God.” Max Lucado, *Shaped by God*

Paul experienced incredible \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ in his ministry and yet, we consider him one of God’s greatest \_\_\_\_\_. Why? It’s simply because he was willing to trust God to work all of it into His \_\_\_\_\_. When writing to the believers at Philippi, he said:

“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; <sup>14</sup>and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

<sup>15</sup>Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: <sup>16</sup>The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; <sup>17</sup>but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. <sup>18</sup>What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

<sup>19</sup>For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,” **Phil 1:12-19**

“Being tested by God reminds us that our function and task is to be about His business, that our purpose is to be an extension of His nature, an ambassador of His throne room, and a proclaimer of His message.” Max Lucado

**God desires that we allow our lives to proclaim His message, whether its content is marked by \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. Our lives are one of the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ we have to share the message of God’s saving grace.**