

**“Embrace Problems as Gifts”**  
**Dr. Mark Foster**  
**Disrupted: Week 6**  
**May 24, 2020**

Principle 1: Say Yes to God, Psalm 145:8-9

Principle 2: Choose your Traveling Companions Wisely, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Principle 3: Seek Wisdom: Ask, Search, Knock, Matthew 7:7

Principle 4: Leave Your Baggage Behind, Psalm 103:11-12

Principle 5: Own Your Stuff, John 8:32

**Two Perspectives on the World and the Problems of Life:**

1. People who focus on solving the \_\_\_\_\_. Matthew 6:25-34  
Jesus is saying, “Don’t be like people without \_\_\_\_\_ who worry all the time.”  
Rather, love God and love \_\_\_\_\_ with our eyes toward heaven. Matthew 7:1-3, 12  
Leave the \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
2. People who go \_\_\_\_\_ the problem. Philippians 3:20  
Because we belong to \_\_\_\_\_ we can rejoice and have peace. Philippians 4:4-7  
*Rather than praying, “God, get me out of this,” we pray, “God, get into this!”*  
God is not as concerned about getting us out of problems as in getting us \_\_\_\_\_ them.  
Jesus, the Great Physician, has \_\_\_\_\_ for us, which often includes pain.

**How to Embrace Problems as Gifts**

Expect \_\_\_\_\_ to be a regular part of life for everyone.

*“All our resistance does nothing to alter the reality of pain.” – Dr. Henry Cloud*

Embrace pain as a \_\_\_\_\_ or indicator of a deeper issue to take to God.

Our problems can be gifts \_\_\_\_\_ we bring them to God. James 1:2-5

*“God is less concerned about your immediate comfort than about your long-term growth.”*

*Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend*

**Some Benefits of Problems**

Problems bring us to the end of \_\_\_\_\_.

We can allow our problems to turn us \_\_\_\_\_. Hebrews 12:1-2

When a solution is beyond us, God is \_\_\_\_\_.

We can allow our problems to give us the courage to look \_\_\_\_\_ at the truth.

**You Can:**

1. Give up \_\_\_\_\_ about pain and problems.
2. Accept that pain is a part of real \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Accept that we don’t have all the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Accept that problems will \_\_\_\_\_ be around us.
5. Accept that some problems will remain \_\_\_\_\_ until we are face to face with God.
6. Adapt and \_\_\_\_\_ to live in peace with the way things really are.
7. Become more \_\_\_\_\_.

**Action Step:** \_\_\_\_\_, “Jesus, teach me whatever it is you want me learn in this situation.”