

Real Hope Podcast

Message Notes

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Seeing Through God's Eyes -4- *Seeing God's Purpose in My Problems*

"Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. **Matthew 6:22 (MSG)**

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, **Ephesians 1:18-19 (NIV)**

Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner. 1 Peter 4:12-13 (MSG)

He takes no pleasure in making life hard, in throwing roadblocks in the way: **Lamentations 3:33 (MSG)**

1. GOD USES PROBLEMS TO DIRECT US

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. **Proverbs 16:9 (ESV)**

I have thought about my life, and I have directed my feet back to your written instructions. **Psalms 119:59 (GW)**

2. GOD USES PROBLEMS TO INSPECT US

Humans are satisfied with whatever looks good; God probes for what is good. **Proverbs 16:2 (MSG)**

I have tested you in the fire of suffering. **Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)**

3. GOD USES PROBLEMS TO CORRECT US

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. **Hebrews 12:7-10 (NIV)**

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. **1 John 3:1 (NLT)**

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"So, what a blessing when God steps in and corrects you! ... **Job 5:17a (MSG)**

My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees. **Psalms 119:71 (NLT)**

4. GOD USES PROBLEMS TO PROTECT US

That's right—he rescues you from hidden traps, shields you from deadly hazards. **Psalms 91:3 (MSG)**

Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!
1 Peter 3:17 (NLT)

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. **Genesis 50:20 (NIV)**

How can we understand the road we travel? It is the Lord who directs our steps. **Proverbs 20:24 (NLT)**

5. GOD USES PROBLEMS TO PERFECT US

He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. **2 Corinthians 1:4 (MSG)**

... after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.
1 Peter 5:10 (NIV)

These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. **2 Corinthians 4:17 (MSG)**

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. **Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)**