



## ***You Were Made to Solve Problems Part III: You Are the Solution to the Problem***

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**Sermon Notes from March 15, 2009**

### **Why was I made to solve problems?**

#### **James 1:2-8 (The Message)**

**2-4 Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.**

5-8 If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.

#### **Problems try to take your:**

- **commitment**
- **confidence**
- **celebration**

#### **Mark 10:17-22 (The Message)**

17 As he went out into the street, a man came running up, greeted him with great reverence, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to get eternal life?"

18-19 Jesus said, "Why are you calling me good? No one is good, only God. You know the commandments: Don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, don't cheat, honor your father and mother."

20 He said, "Teacher, I have—from my youth—kept them all!"

21 Jesus looked him hard in the eye—and loved him! He said, "There's one thing left: Go sell whatever you own and give it to the poor. All your wealth will then be heavenly wealth. And come follow me."

22 The man's face clouded over. This was the last thing he expected to hear, and he walked off with a heavy heart. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and not about to let go.

#### **Christ solved our biggest problem.**

#### **1 John 2:1-2 (The Message)**

1-2 I write this, dear children, to guide you out of sin. But if anyone does sin, we have a Priest-Friend in the presence of the Father: Jesus Christ, righteous Jesus. When he served as a sacrifice for our sins, he solved the sin problem for good—not only ours, but the whole world's.



#### Problems teach you:

- To Be Thankful (Matthew 14:13-21 & John 11:41)
- To Be Thorough (1 Chronicles 13-16)
- To Be a Thinker

#### Why I like problems:

- beginning phase of **promotion**
- my persecution is connected to my **prosperity**
- helps to sharpen your **purpose**
- it is the by-product of my **provision**
  
- They cause us to review:
- Structure
- Standards
- Strategy

#### Luke 6:48-49 (The Message)

"If you work the words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who dug deep and laid the foundation of his house on bedrock. When the river burst its banks and crashed against the house, nothing could shake it; it was built to last. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a dumb carpenter who built a house but skipped the foundation. When the swollen river came crashing in, it collapsed like a house of cards. It was a total loss."

#### Definition of Structure

- makeup, form, build

#### Synonyms:

anatomy, architecture, arrangement, build, complex, configuration, conformation, construction, design, fabric, fabrication, format, formation, frame, framework, interrelation, make, morphology, network, order, organization, skeleton, system, texture

#### Romans 12: 1-2

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.



### Definition of Standards

- moral philosophy, values

### Synonyms:

belief, conduct, conscience, convention, conventionalities, criteria, decency, ethos, goodness, honesty, honor, ideal, imperative, integrity, moral code, morality, mores, natural law, nature, practice, principles, right and wrong, rules of conduct, standard, standards, the Golden Rule

### Antonyms:

corruption, immorality

### Definition of Strategy

- A strategy is a plan of action designed to achieve a particular goal

### Synonyms:

action, angle, approach, artifice, blueprint\*, brainchild, craft, cunning, design, game, game plan\*, gimmick, grand design, layout, maneuvering, method, plan, planning, policy, procedure, program, project, proposition, racket\*, scenario, scene, scheme, setup, slant, story, subtlety, system, tactics

- Strategy is different from tactics. In military terms, tactics is concerned with the conduct of an engagement while strategy is concerned with how different engagements are linked. In other words, how a battle is fought is a matter of tactics: whether it should be fought at all is a matter of strategy. Strategy is relevant to many areas of life, from getting the right date for an event to running a business. For example, the goal of a company may be to increase profits: the strategy chosen might be to undertake an advertising campaign; invest in a new computer system; or adjust pricing.

### You Were Made to Solve Problems

- Strategy is a **plan**, a "how," a means of getting from here to there.
- Strategy is a **pattern** in actions over time; for example, a company that regularly markets very expensive products is using a "high end" strategy.
- Strategy is **position**; that is, it reflects decisions to offer particular products or services in particular markets.
- Strategy is **perspective**, that is, vision and direction.

### The Ultimate Strategy

- **Read** The Word!
- **Hear** The Word!
- **Speak** The Word!
- **Remember** The Word!
- **Live** The Word!
- **Give** The Word!