

## What If I Never Had Problems?

James 1:1-8

May 2, 2010

### Real Christ-Followers Have **PROBLEMS** and **EMBRACE** Them!

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds... James 1:2*

- **Mistake #1: Christianity as an ESCAPE...**  
*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33a*
- **Mistake #2: Problems Are to be AVOIDED...**  
*As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. James 5:11b*

### Joyful Christ-Followers Look **PAST** the Problems to the **PRIZE**...

*...because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:3-4*

- **Short-Term Prize: REFINED Stamina**  
*These [trials] have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:7*
- **Long-Term Prize: Fulfilled DESTINY!**  
*Blessed are those who persevere under trial, because when they have stood the test, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12*

### **CONFUSED** Christ-Followers Are Encouraged to Ask God

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

*James 1:5*

- **Wisdom Doesn't Answer WHY But HOW...**  
*...for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair... Proverbs 1:2-3*

### Successful Christ-followers Overcome Their Lack of **CONFIDENCE**.

*But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. Those who doubt should not think they will receive anything from the Lord; they are double-minded and unstable in all they do. James 1:6-8*

- **Faith is Demonstrated by What You DO, Not But What You FEEL...**  
*"But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."  
" 'If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Mark 9:22b-24*

On the slide give this last verse breaks between the speakers for clarity, as follows...

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