

# THRIVING WHEN YOUR LIFE IS IN CHAOS

Thrive — Part 1 of 8

## What to Do When You're Life is Thrown into Chaos:

### 1. Don't be surprised by ADVERSITY.

*"Dear friends, don't be shocked or surprised when you suffer through painful tests and trials as if something strange is happening to you." 1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)*

*Jesus: "In this world you will experience difficulties! But take heart! I have conquered the world! I've told you this so that in trusting me, you will be unshakable and deeply at peace." John 16:33 (MSG)*

### 4 sources of every problem in your life: YOU, WORLD, SATAN, GOD

### 2. Look for ways that God might use it for GOOD.

*God says: "The plans I have for you are plans for good and not to harm you. They are plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)*

- God shakes things up to INSPECT me.

*"The Lord searches our hearts and examines our deepest motives so he can give to each person his right reward, according to how he has lived." Jeremiah 17:10 (LB)*

*"... God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you'd keep his commands." Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV)*

**ASK:** What does this problem REVEAL about me?

- God shakes things up to CORRECT me.

*"God corrects all of his children, and if he doesn't correct you, then you don't really belong to him... God corrects us for our own good, because he wants us to be holy, as he is. It is never fun to be corrected. In fact, at the time it is always painful. But if we learn to obey by being corrected, we will do right and live at peace." Hebrews 12:8-11 (CEV)*

*"When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he says, 'I will not only shake the earth but the heavens too.' By this he means that he will sift out everything without a solid foundation so that only the unshakable things will be left." Hebrews 12:26-27 (LB)*

*"Consider yourself fortunate when God all-powerful chooses to correct you." Job 5:17 (CEV)*

**ASK:** What is the problem TEACHING me?

- God shakes things up to DIRECT me.

*"A person may plan his own journey, but the Lord directs his steps." Proverbs 16:9 (GW)*

*"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." Proverbs 20:30 (TEV)*

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

**ASK:** Where is this problem LEADING me?

- God shakes things up to PROTECT me.

*"God has led you away from danger, giving you freedom." Job 36:16 (NIV)*

*"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good..." Genesis 50:20 (NIV)*

**ASK:** How could this PROBLEM protect me?

- God shakes things up to **PERFECT** me.

*“After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who calls you to share his eternal glory in union with Christ, will himself perfect you and give you firmness, strength, and a sure foundation.” 1 Peter 5:10 (TEV)*

*“We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us — they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it . . .” Romans 5:3-4 (LB)*

**ASK:** How can I **GROW** from this problem?

**3. Trust God for what I don't UNDERSTAND.**

*“Since the Lord is directing our steps, why try to understand everything that happens along the way?” Proverbs 20:24 (LB)*

*“Trust the Lord with all your heart. Don't depend on your own understanding. Honor the Lord in everything you do and he will give you success.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)*