

GOD'S TOOLS FOR BUILDING A HAPPY LIFE:

"THE HAMMER OF PROBLEMS"

"My friends, do not be surprised at the terrible trouble which now comes to test you... But be happy that you are sharing in Christ's sufferings so that you will be happy and full of joy when Christ comes again in glory.....So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good." I Peter 4:12-19

God Uses Problems to:

I. _____ Me

"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." Prov. 20:30 (GN)

"I am glad... not because it hurt you but because the pain turned you to God..." 2 Cor. 7:9 (LB)

II. _____ Me

"When you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience... Then you will be mature and complete ..." James 1:2-4 (NCV)

"I (God) have refined you ... I have tested you in the furnace of affliction." Isaiah 48:10

III. _____ Me

"It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees." Ps. 119:71

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good ..." Gen. 50:20

IV. _____ Me

"We can rejoice, too, 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..." Rom 5:3-4 (LB)

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