God can use your problems for something far greater!

By Pastor Jeff Schreve


Now some problems are big, and some are small. We have problems at work, at home, at school, in the community, and in our relationships. But every single one of the problems we face have one thing in common: they all need to be brought to Jesus.

You may say, “Pastor Jeff, that’s such a ‘churchy’ answer. Could that really be the solution to all the problems I have?”

Absolutely, 100%, without a doubt, yes!

Do you remember the story of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus? They were all close friends of Jesus, and they had a big problem: Lazarus got sick, deathly sick. So, his sisters, Mary and Martha, sent a message to Jesus to let Him know they had a problem that needed His attention.

And when Jesus got the message about Lazarus, He said, “This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it” (John 11:4).

You see, we can often look at our problems and think, “This is a big problem. I hate this problem. Oh God, deliver me from this problem!” But when you bring your problems to Jesus, they actually become opportunities for something far greater.

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That’s right, your problem today is an opportunity for the Son of God to be glorified in your life.

The apostle Paul had a big problem, too. We don’t know exactly what it was, but we know he didn’t want it. He prayed three times, “Lord, take this problem (thorn) from me,” and the Lord said, “No!” He said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:8-9).

At that response, Paul started to see his problem differently. “Wow! I thought this ‘thorn in the flesh’ was a bad thing, but it’s a good thing.” And he said, “Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong” (verse 10).

You say, “But Pastor Jeff, you don’t know my problem.” Maybe not, but is it worse than Lazarus’ problem? He was quickly assuming room temperature. He would be dead and in a tomb for four days before the Lord would raise him back to life—which brought even more glory to Jesus than just healing him from sickness. Lazarus’ problem became an awe-inspiring testimony that Jesus had power even over death itself!

Our God specializes in problem solving, even today. So, start viewing your problems from a different perspective. Start believing that your problems—no matter how great—are really opportunities for God to showcase His matchless glory in your life.

Q&A with Pastor Jeff

Q: Pastor Jeff, what did Jesus mean when He said, “nothing will be impossible to you”?

A: Jesus said, “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you” (Matthew 17:20). Does that mean you can run a 2-minute mile or leap the Grand Canyon? No! It means nothing in the will of God is impossible to you. First John 5:14-15 says, “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.” But it’s always according to His will.

Q: How can I tell whether my problem is something that can be changed or if it’s something God wants me to live with?

A: Paul had an ailment he didn’t want, but it wasn’t a mountain that the Lord wanted to move. It was a thorn in the flesh that was given to him to keep him from exalting himself. And when he prayed three times, “Lord, take this from me.” The Lord responded by saying, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. This situation is being used in your life to keep you humble, to keep you connected, to keep you a man of faith, to keep you trusting. So, no, I’m not going to remove that.” You’ve got to find out, in your situation, what is this problem? Is this a mountain God wants to remove, and He’s looking at me to continue on in faith, or is this something He wants to use in my life in a different way? Check the Word of God. What has God promised? Because if you find a promise in the Word of God, then you cling to that promise and say, “God has promised this.” When the promise comes to fulfillment is in the Lord’s hands. Our job is to trust Him, no matter what. Remember, it is better to die in faith than to live in doubt!
Dear Friend,

Do you truly believe the Lord can do great things for you? *He can!*

But if you’re not seeing the Lord do much in your life, it might be because you don’t believe He can. God responds when you and I believe He will and trust Him to do so.

I want to help you believe God for the big things by sending you my Believe and See series and the booklet, *The Divine Helper: Uncovering the Mystery of the Holy Spirit.*

God wants to do great things in your life. Request these on the enclosed reply card when you send your gift today—and discover how!

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**From Debbie’s Heart:**

**Pray until something happens**

By Debbie Schreve

You may have heard the acronym: P.U.S.H. … *Pray-Until-Something-Happens.*

There are many times when you and I need to persist with our prayers and our efforts to live faithfully—even when it’s hard and discouraging.

It reminds me of the story of the man who asked his friend for some bread in the middle of the night, and his friend wasn’t inclined to help. But Jesus said, “Yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.”

Part of having strong faith is refusing to quit and continuing to trust God, no matter what.

Jesus continued, “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.” (Luke 11:9-10).

Friend, don’t give up. Whatever mountain you want to see removed, or whatever thorn in the flesh you’re living with, continue to press into Jesus. Pray until something happens!
Dear Friend,

Your faith is a central part of who you are. As theologian A.W. Tozer once said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

But let me ask you an honest question … Is your faith growing or diminishing?

I love how Jesus used the mustard seed to illustrate faith in Matthew 17:20. The mustard seed was the smallest seed the people knew about, but it could grow into the biggest of garden trees.

Jesus’ lesson was simple: He wants us to have a growing faith. It doesn’t have to be perfect, or even big. But it must be a faith that grows.

I’m so grateful for your support—which shows how your faith is growing as you invest in reaching others with the gospel. Thank you for any gift you can give today to help others grow in their faith by sharing real truth, real love, and real hope through From His Heart Ministries.

I pray that you’ll keep growing in your faith as you bring glory to Jesus!

Love,

Reaching more people with real hope—thanks to you

*From His Heart* programs are now being shared on Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) thanks to the support of friends like you!

TBN is the world’s largest Christian television network and America’s most-watched faith-and-family channel. In the U.S. TBN’s family of networks is available to 98 percent of households and globally TBN reaches an estimated two billion potential viewers each day.

Thank you for your continued support to produce quality TV programs that present the real hope of the gospel clearly to viewers all over the world. Please pray that more people will come to know Christ through this new outreach opportunity.