

Dealing with Difficulties

After a person invites Christ into their life, they should expect the rest of their life will be... (Check one)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> like going to Disneyland | <input type="checkbox"/> some ups and downs but mostly a life of prosperity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a wonderful, happy, abundant life | <input type="checkbox"/> a spiritual battle for the control of their mind |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a casual stroll on the beach | <input type="checkbox"/> miserable and extremely difficult, full of trials |

So far my Christian life has been...

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Easy					Moderate		Difficult		

What do you think? SA=Strongly Agree A=Agree D=Disagree SD=Strongly Disagree

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. <input type="checkbox"/> Most of the time I experience problems, it is because God is punishing me for my sins. | E. <input type="checkbox"/> When bad things happen, there is nothing I can do about them. |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> Everything in a Christian's life happens for a purpose | F. <input type="checkbox"/> What I do today will determine what happens tomorrow. |
| C. <input type="checkbox"/> Satan can cause bad things to happen to me. | G. <input type="checkbox"/> Life is supposed to full of problems and difficulties |
| D. <input type="checkbox"/> If something bad happens, it is not from God. | H. <input type="checkbox"/> Christians have fewer problems than non-Christians |

Becoming a Christian does not mean you will no longer have any problems. The difficulties you will experience as a Christian can come from one of three sources:

The World (1 John 2:15-17)

There are three types of temptations that the world offers:

- The **lust of the flesh** (misusing your natural appetites for food, sex, comfort, pleasure, etc.)
Give an example of a "lust of the flesh" _____
- The **lust of the eyes** (desiring to possess things, materialism, wanting whatever you see)
Give an example of a "lust of the eyes" _____
- The **pride of life** (a compulsive pursuit of fame, power, recognition, status in the eyes of another)
Give an example of the "pride of life" _____

The natural consequences of foolish decisions (Galatians 6:7)

What is sowing and what is reaping? _____

Have you ever made a foolish decision and experienced bad consequences?

Have you ever made a good decision and experienced good consequences?

Things God allows for our spiritual growth

God will allow us experience hard times for two reasons:

- Disciplining us a consequence for our sin
Why does God discipline us in Proverbs 3:11-12?
- Testing us to cause spiritual growth (James 1:2-4)
Why does James say God allows trials into our lives?

The Basics #15

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