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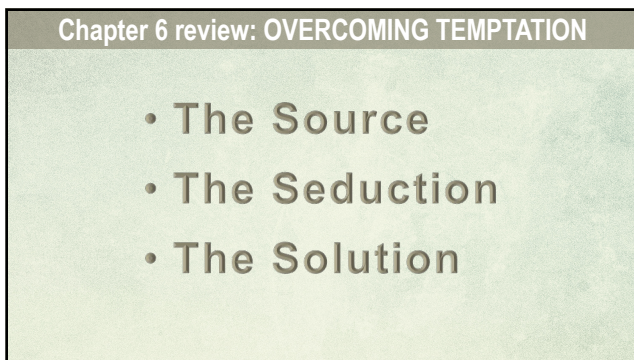
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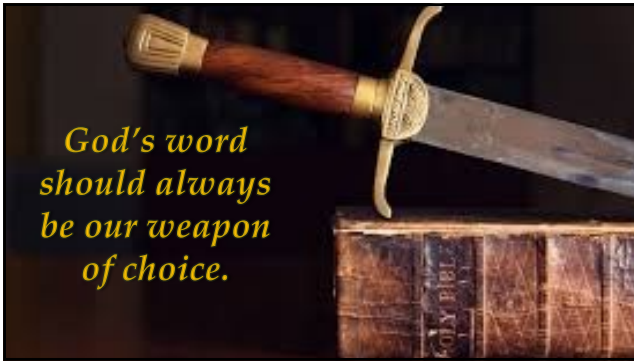
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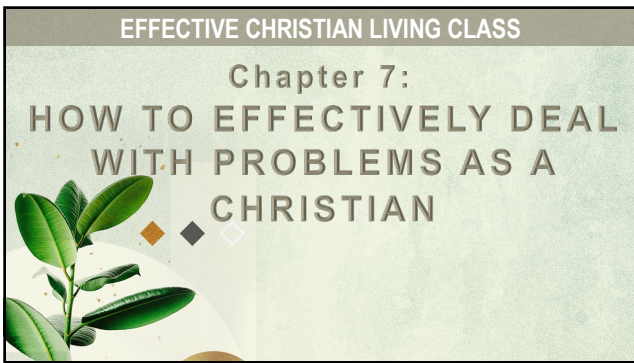
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"THE POLITICS OF VICTIMIZATION HAVE TAKEN THE PLACE OF MORE TRADITIONAL EXPRESSIONS OF MORALITY AND EQUITY. IF YOU LOSE A JOB, YOU CAN SUE FOR MENTAL DISTRESS OF BEING FIRED. IF YOUR BANK GOES BROKE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL INSURE YOUR DEPOSIT. IF YOU DRIVE DRUNK AND CRASH, YOU CAN TRY AND SUE SOMEONE FOR FAILING TO WARN YOU. OUR PROBLEMS, WE ARE TOLD, ARE THE RESULTS OF IDENTIFYING AS "VICTIMS." THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE ELSE TO BLAME, SOMEONE WHO HURT US. NO ONE IS GUILTY ANYMORE."

~ CHARLES SYKES, "A NATION OF VICTIMS"

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**<sup>1</sup> Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?**

James 4:1

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*Desire*

GREEK: HĒDONĒ

FROM WHICH WE DERIVE OUR WORD HEDONISM  
BELIEF THAT PLEASURE IS THE CHIEF GOOD IN LIFE

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<sup>11</sup> You will show me the path of  
life; in Your presence is fullness  
of joy; at Your right hand are  
pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 16:11

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<sup>11</sup> For the Lord God is a sun and  
shield; the Lord will give grace and  
glory; no good thing will He withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.

Psalm 84:11

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**<sup>17</sup> Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.**

1 Timothy 6:17

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**<sup>14</sup> Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.**

Luke 8:14

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**<sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.**

Titus 3:3

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<sup>1</sup> I said to myself, “Come on, let’s try pleasure. Let’s look for the ‘good things’ in life.” But I found that this, too, was meaningless.  
<sup>2</sup> So I said, “Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?”

Ecclesiastes 2:1-2 (NLT)

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JOY DAVIDMAN, WIFE OF C.S. LEWIS



“Living for his own pleasure is the least pleasurable thing a man can do. If his neighbors don’t kill him in disgust, he will die slowly of boredom and powerlessness.”

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<sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.  
<sup>9</sup> Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

James 4:8-9

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**<sup>24</sup> O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**

Romans 7:24

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**<sup>9</sup> Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others**

Luke 18:9

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**<sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."**

Luke 18:14

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<sup>1</sup> O Lord, You have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup> You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. <sup>3</sup> You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. <sup>5</sup> You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

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If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. <sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, <sup>10</sup> even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. <sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," even the night shall be light about me; <sup>12</sup> indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You.

Psalm 139 :1-12

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**<sup>5</sup> For even His brothers did not believe in Him.**

John 7:5

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**<sup>7</sup> Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.**

1 Corinthians 15:7

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**<sup>2</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.**

James 1:2-3 (NLT)

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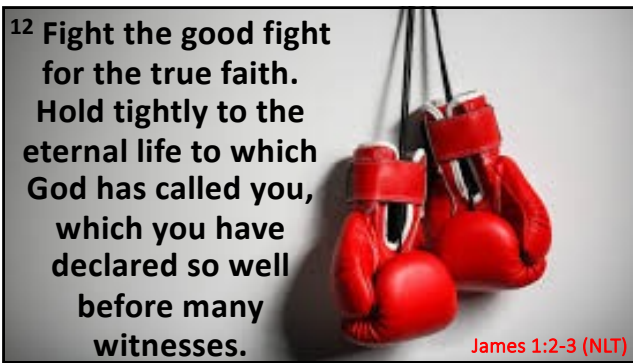
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**<sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses.**

James 1:2-3 (NLT)

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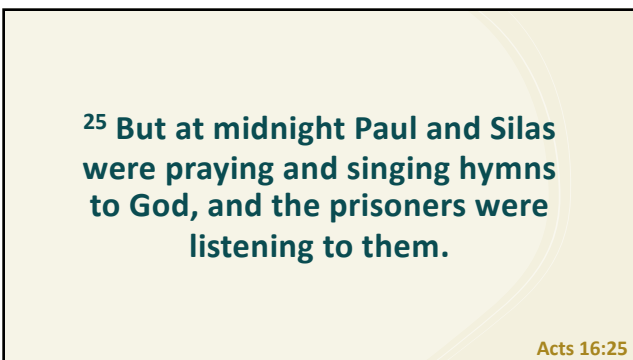
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**<sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.**

Acts 16:25

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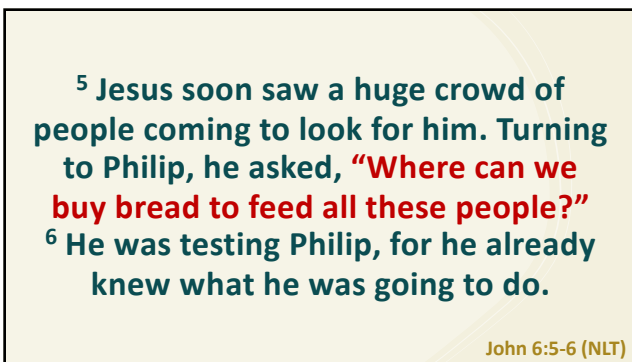
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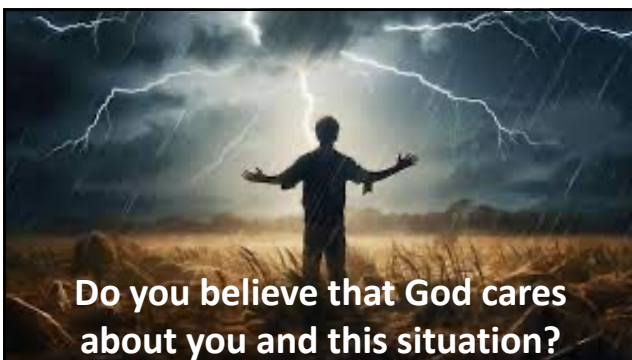
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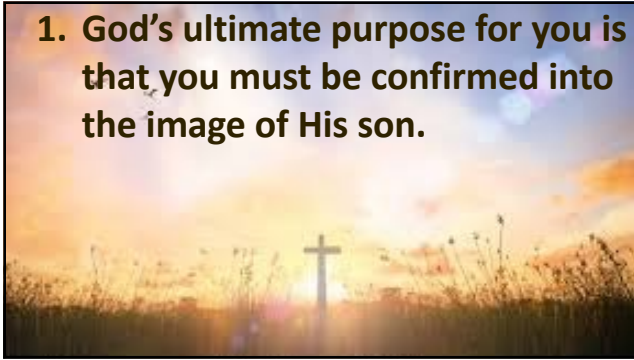
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**1. God's ultimate purpose for you is that you must be confirmed into the image of His son.**



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**<sup>17</sup> For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!**

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)

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**"When God permits His children to go through the furnace, He keeps his eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat. If we rebel, He may have to reset the clock. If we submit, He will not permit us to suffer one minute too long."**

**~Warren Wiersbe**

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2. God allows trials so you will become strong spiritually.

"When your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow." ~ James, half-brother of Jesus

Endurance is also translated as patience, steadfast, fortitude, and perseverance.

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**<sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.**

James 1:4 (NLT)

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3. God promises to be with you as you go through the problem



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<sup>35</sup> On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, **"Let us cross over to the other side."** <sup>36</sup> Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. <sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. <sup>38</sup> But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup> Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, **"Peace, be still!"** And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> But He said to them, **"Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"** <sup>41</sup> And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Mark 4:35-41

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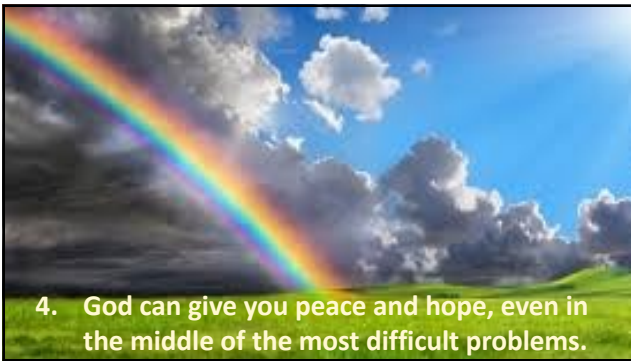
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<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

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**5. God will help you be able to comfort others**



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**<sup>4</sup> He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. <sup>5</sup> For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.**

2 Corinthians 1:4-5 (NLT)

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