



Rising out of Life's Persistent Problems

Listen! "Every life has pockets of incurable pain." Dr. Larry Crabb.

- A Story: One man's incurable pain.

Tension or trouble or question or problem: What do we do in the face of brutal, incessant, unfixable pain? Emotional or physical or relational or mental or financial or vocational or...

- Can we fix it by believing hard enough?
- Can we avoid cynicism and anger?
- Can we distract ourselves enough to get by?
- What do we do?

- **The Truth is:** Some problems will not go away. They remain: painful, chronic, unfixable, pervasive, and to one degree or another debilitating.

When problems will not go away:

- In your need keep asking for God to break in and help.
 - Luke 18:1-8.

- In your mind keep believing that God is good.
 - 1 Chron 16:34; 2 Chron 5:13 and 17:3; Ps 106:1, 107:1, 118:1, 118:29, 136:1; Ezra 3:11; Psalm 73:1.
 - Good:
 - Lovingkindness:

- With your volition keep choosing to obey.
 - 2 Peter 1:3.

- In your heart keep feeling the compassion God has for you.
 - John 11:35.
 - Hebrews 7:25.
 - Psalm 27:28.

Core Truth: We can have joy despite our unfixable problems...by tenaciously clinging to the character of God.

- The Rest of the Story: One man's victory in incurable pain.

Walking Papers

Practical helps for walking with Christ this week.

Core Truth: We can have joy despite our unfixable problems...by tenaciously clinging to the character of God.

Please take some time each day this week for "spiritual recalibration" by thinking through the following ideas and questions related to having "eternity in our hearts:"

- **Today:** What are your thoughts, feelings, and responses to the video testimony today about 60 years of intense physical pain?
- **Monday:** What are your persistent problems? How long have each one been going on? How bad has each one been? What have you tried to do to fix them?
- **Tuesday:** What do you think is the core truth of Luke 18:1-8? Are you still praying about these things? Have you given up praying about these things?
- **Wednesday:** Do you believe that God is good? Why or why not? What is the evidence that He is good or that He is not good? How have your persistent problems affected your beliefs about the goodness of God? Ps 136:1
- **Thursday:** Have you been able to keep obeying God in the face of your persistent problems? Have you gotten cynical? Angry? Embittered? Have you harbored grudges? 2 Peter 1:3 and John 14:15
- **Friday:** Can you feel God's compassion for you? Do you believe He is compassionate? How does the weeping of Jesus impact your thinking about your persistent and severe problems? How does the intercession of Jesus impact your thinking about your persistent and severe problems? Hebrews 7:25
- **Saturday:** Do you think joy is available in the presence of persistent problems?