

## Two ways to pastorally abuse others

**Lead people to believe that God will change things that He won't.**

**Lead people to believe that God will not change things that He can.**

### *What should I expect from God?*

- ✓ Don't expect dramatic miracles to be God's **primary** way of working.
- ✓ Be **thankful** for the **mundane** hand of God.
- ✓ Take **responsibility** to respond to the circumstances of life with creativity, character, and faith in God's "**inner**" working.
- ✓ Expect God to work in and through your **response** to life's ups and downs.

### 1 John 5:14-15

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that **if we ask anything according to His will**, he hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."



## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

**When do I  
move mountains,  
climb mountains, and  
endure mountains?**

### 2 Corinthians 12

"<sup>1</sup> Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago - whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows - such a man was caught up to the third heaven. <sup>3</sup> And I know how such a man - whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows - <sup>4</sup> was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak. <sup>5</sup> On behalf of such a man will I boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup> For if I do wish to boast I shall not be foolish, for I shall be speaking the truth; but I refrain from this, so that no one may credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me."

"<sup>7</sup> And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me - to keep me from exalting myself! <sup>8</sup> Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup> And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup> 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."

## Guide to a good response to bad circumstances?

### 1. Posture or spiritual "set up."

Romans 12

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."



Baptism

# Repent

μετανοεω

metanoeo

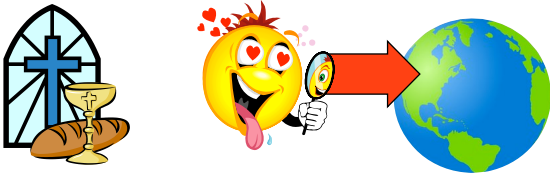
meta - "after"

noeo - "to perceive"

**"to renew or change the mind"**

# REPENT

leaving  
worldly hopes & values



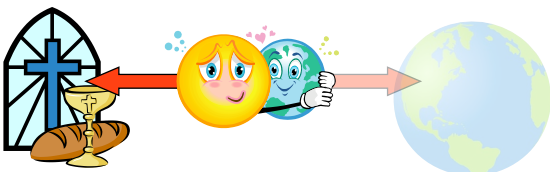
# REPENT

adopting  
Kingdom hopes & values



# repent

letting go of worldly  
attachments & actions



# REPENT

# repent



- ★ Faith & Hope
- ★ Salvation
- ★ Baptism



- ★ Acts of sin
- ★ Fellowship
- ★ Repeated

## Guide to a good response to bad circumstances?

1. **Posture** or spiritual “set up.”
2. **Patience** or lack of clear direction.



I Corinthians 13:12

“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.”

## Guide to a good response to bad circumstances?

1. **Posture** or spiritual “set up.”
2. **Patience** or lack of clear meaning.



**Job** - never knew  
**Joseph** - eventually knew  
**Judas** - didn't wait

## Guide to a good response to bad circumstances?

1. **Posture** or spiritual “set up.”
2. **Patience** or lack of clear direction.
3. **Petition** or changing the circumstances.



Prayer

I Peter 5:7

“casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

## Guide to a good response to bad circumstances?

1. **Posture** or spiritual “set up.”
2. **Patience** or lack of clear direction.
3. **Petition** or changing the circumstances.
4. **Perspective** or open to a bigger meaning.



- a. **Greater good** or purpose.
- b. **Grace** or confidence.
- c. **Teachable** or ear to hear unwelcome news.

## Guide to a good response to bad circumstances?

1. **Posture** or spiritual “set up.”
2. **Patience** or lack of clear direction.
3. **Petition** or changing the circumstances.
4. **Perspective** or open to a bigger meaning.
5. **Peace** or celebration of weakness.



Peace

- a. **Contentment** or relaxed attitude.
- b. **Celebration** or thankfulness.

## What should we do in the face of difficult circumstances?

- ✓ Take your baptism seriously.
- ✓ Invest for inner peace and power through an enlightened perspective.
- ✓ Have an ear to hear things you may not want to hear.
- ✓ Change what you can and should.
- ✓ As long as it is a care, cast it in prayer.
- ✓ Do not be ashamed of worldly weakness.