

**Week 9: Day 25-27**

Week 10: Day 28-30

Week 11: Day 31-33

Week 12: Day 34-36

## **Introduction**

### **I. The Purpose Driven Life**

#### **a. This Teaching**

1. Based on a bestselling book written by Rick Warren, lead pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA.
2. The book is written as a 40 day series of daily devotionals.
3. The number 40 was selected because of its biblical significance
  - i. Noah's life was transformed by 40 days of rain.
  - ii. Moses was transformed by 40 days on Mount Sinai and 40 years in the desert.
  - iii. The spies were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land
  - iv. David was transformed by Goliath's 40 day challenge.
  - v. Elijah was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal.
  - vi. The entire city of Nineveh was transformed when God gave the people 40 days to change.
  - vii. Jesus was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness.
  - viii. The disciples were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after his resurrection.

#### **b. The Goals for this teaching**

1. Promote personal devotion and understanding of our individual purposes for life.
2. Strengthen the desire of individuals to serve the fellowship of believers through each partner discovering his/her divine calling.
3. Create opportunities for small group leaders to share this information in a small group setting with their un-churched friends and family.

## II. Transformed by Trouble (Day 25)

### a. Introduction

1. No one is immune to pain or insulated from suffering, and no one gets to skate through life problem-free
2. Problems force us to look to God and depend on him instead of ourselves.
3. God uses problems to draw us closer to him.
  - i. **Psalm 34:18** The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

### b. Understanding Romans 8:28-29

1. We know – Our hope in difficult times is not based on positive thinking, wishful thinking, or natural optimism.
2. That God causes – There’s a grand Designer behind everything. .
3. Everything – God’s plan for your life involves all that happens to you – including your mistakes, your sins, and your hurts. It includes illness, debt, disasters, divorce, and death of loved ones.
4. To work together – Not separately or independently. The events in your life work together in God’s plan
5. For the good – This does not say that everything in life is good, but God specializes in bringing good out of it.
6. Of those who love God and are called – This promise is only for God’s children.
7. According to his purpose –his purpose is that we become like his Son.

### c. Building Christlike Character

1. Every problem is a character building opportunity, and the more difficult it is, the greater the potential for building spiritual muscle and moral fiber.
  - i. Romans 5:34 “And not only so, but we glory in tribulation also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience...
  - ii. 1 Peter 1:7 “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of Gold that perisheth, through it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

### d. Responding to Problems as Jesus Would

1. Remember that God’s Plan is Good
  - i. Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”
  - ii. Joseph understood this truth when he told his brothers who had sold him into slavery, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good.” (Gen. 50:20)

- iii. Don't give into short-term thinking.
2. Rejoice and Give Thanks
    - i. The Bible tells us to give thanks in all circumstances. (1 Thess. 5:18)
    - ii. God wants you to thank him that he will use your problems to fulfill his purposes.
  3. Refuse to Give Up
    - i. Be patient and persistent through slow process of character building.
    - ii. **James 1:4** [But let patience have](#) her [perfect work, that](#) ye may [be perfect and entire, wanting nothing](#) \*.
    - iii. When you grasp the eternal consequences of your character development, you'll pray fewer "Comfort me" prayers (Help me feel good) and more "Conform me prayers" (Use this to make me more like you).

### III. Growing Through Temptation (Day 26)

#### a. Introduction

1. Every temptation is an opportunity to do good.
2. Temptation is Satan's primary weapon to destroy you, God wants to use it to develop you.
3. The fruit of the Spirit is a concise description of the character qualities of Jesus. (Galatians 5:22-23)
4. "God develops the fruit of the Spirit in your life by allowing you to experience circumstances in which you're tempted to express the exact opposite quality!"

#### b. How Temptation Works

1. All temptation follows the same pattern.
2. Step one – Satan identifies a **desire** inside of you.
  - i. Temptation begins when Satan suggest (with a thought) that you give in to an evil desire, or that you fulfill a legitimate desire in a wrong way or at the wrong time.
  - ii. Temptation starts in your mind not externally. (Mark 7:21-23)
3. Step two – Satan tries to get you to **doubt** what God has said about the sin: Is it really wrong?
4. Step three – Satan deceives us with lies.
5. Step four – You finally act on the thought you've been toying with in your mind and become **disobedient** to the will of God.

c. Overcoming Temptation

1. Refuse to be intimidated
2. Recognize your pattern of temptation and be prepared for it.
3. Request God's help

**IV. Defeating Temptation (Day 27)**

a. Refocus your attention on something else

1. Since temptation always begins with a thought, the quickest way to neutralize its allure is to turn your attention to something else.
2. Don't fight the thought, just change the channel.

b. Reveal your struggle to a godly friend or support group.

1. Two Are better than one in supporting and helping each other through tests and temptation. **(Eccl. 4:9-10)**
2. Some temptations are only overcome with the help of a partner who prays for you, encourages you, and holds you accountable.

c. Resist the Devil

1. Do not passively resign ourselves to his attacks, fight back!
2. Paul admonishes us to prepare ourselves for battle. (Eph. 6:17)
3. Steps to resisting the devil:
  - i. You must first accept God's salvation.
  - ii. You must use the Word of God as your weapon against Satan.
    - a) Jesus modeled this during his temptation in the wilderness. (Matt. 4)
    - b) This shows the importance of memorizing Scriptures.

d. Realize your vulnerability

1. Given the right circumstances, any of us are capable of any sin.