**Problems or Opportunities**

Some people seem to be plagued with problems. You ask them how they are and out comes a string of problems. Yet, we need to realise that when we have a problem, then the problem is actually oneself. And even worse still, the solution is oneself as well! A problem indicates that:

we do not know of a solution or

we do not believe the solution will work or

we do not want to do what is necessary for the solution to work, or

we do not believe that God is going to do what is needed or

.....

If we have a solution and believe that it will work and is going to work, then there is no problem just an opportunity for a solution to be demonstrated. If we believe that God loves us and wants the best for us, then we must believe that the all-knowing, all-powerful, God is not only aware of our problem but has a solution for it also. It is an opportunity for God’s love, wisdom and power to be demonstrated through ourselves.

Problems drain us as there appears to be no solution and no respite from it. However, opportunities give encouragement as they give chances for us to demonstrate God’s provision for us.

How might we pray when a ‘problem’ comes along?

God get rid of this problem.

or

God, show me Your solution to this opportunity you have brought my way.

For example, if one has an overbearing boss at work, one could look at the situation in two ways.

**First Way**

There is a problem because I do not like how my boss is treating me. One is then tempted to pray for the boss to go or for the boss to change. One might pray for a new job and so get away from the boss. Your motivation is to get away from a problem that you do not like.

**Second Way**

If one sees the situation as an opportunity for God’s unending love to be demonstrated through you, and you know you have enough love to cope because God supplies the love (and His love is limitless), then you embrace the situation as a golden opportunity to show God’s love which otherwise could not be shown. One is able to overcome evil with good.

OR

One might see the situation as a sign from God, an opportunity for you to move on to something new. The situation is no longer a problem but an opportunity.

Do we see a glass as being half empty or being half full? Do we see a problem or an opportunity? Do we dwell on the negative or on the positive? Do we embrace despair or hope?

Reflection:

Our God is a God of hope who will not disappoint us. Do we really believe this?

Bill Hunter 2014