

THINKING, THANKING & LOVING THROUGH STRUGGLES

Pastor Jeff Alexander + *Never Alone* + October 14, 2018

**How do most self-help books at Barnes & Noble tell us to deal with our struggles?
How does this compare to what the Bible tells us?**

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Peace in your soul comes from THINKING through what you believe.

What did Jonathan Edwards say would happen to the bad, good, and best things in your life?

- Bad Things →
- Good Things →
- Best Things →

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

THANKING God ahead of time, even before He fully responds to our requests, shows that we trust His grace and goodness in our lives.

COLOSSIANS 3:13-14

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Struggles in life can be used for good when they strip us of our pride and help us re-orient our lives around LOVING God by means of loving our neighbor.

“We can ignore even pleasure.
But pain insists upon being attended to.
God whispers to us in our pleasures,
speaks in our conscience,
but shouts in our pains:
it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”
C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

Levi Lusko says, “Pain is a microphone.” *What kind have you been given?*