

Father John Catoir

Life's Problems

"The world around us is God's best idea for helping us grow. It isn't perfect because it needed to be imperfect so that we would have something to work on. Its imperfection makes it a perfect place, as a gymnasium in which to develop our muscles and become strong." (Frank C. Laubach, "Channels of Spiritual Power")



If you're up to your ears in problems, don't panic. You've been through worse before and you're still here. Many problems seem insurmountable at first, but with a little prayer and determination these irksome difficulties are resolved one by one and peace returns.

It's like painting a bridge. No sooner are you finished one half when the other half needs attention. Problems we will always have with us, one more difficult than the next, but don't be discouraged, there is always grace.

With grace you begin to see problems as opportunities. Walt Whitman expressed this attitude in his poem, "Passages to India."

"O my brave soul
O farther, farther sail!
O daring joy, but safe! Are they not all
the seas of God?
O farther, farther, farther sail!"

He urges us not to be afraid to struggle on;

he encourages us to keep our sights set on victory. St. Paul once praised the determination of athletes in training. They work hard to achieve a prize. They reason that if things go bad in this season, there is always the next; but they keep the goal of victory ever before them.

God places great responsibility on our shoulders. It's easy to become discouraged if we depend on our own strength alone, but those who rely on God's power have a distinct advantage. Their trust enables them to rise to the challenge, and carry on with courage.

God the Father wants us to develop the same trust and cooperation He found in His beloved son. "Be true sons (and daughters) of your Father who is in heaven." (Mt. 5:44-45) Jesus promised to give us the grace we need, "Ask and you shall receive..."

"The glory which you gave me, Father I am giving to them. They shall be with me where I am; the love which You have for me will be in them, and I will be in them..."

Tackle your problems one by one and have courage. Persevere in your highest hopes. You have ten times the strength you think you have. Ask the Lord to be your strength and your joy, and He will never fail you.

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