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Finding Hope In Hard Times
“Hope for Your Circumstances”

(Part 3)
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I. Negative Circumstances Are _____
I Peter 4:12 “Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.” (NLT)

John 16:33 “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” (NLT)

A. Negative circumstances are part of a fallen world

B. Negative circumstances do not indicate God’s _____

II. God Uses Negative Circumstances To Develop Our _____

Rom. 5:3-5 “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.” (NLT)

James 1:2-4 “Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.” (NLT)

A. We must choose between fighting or _____

B. We must stop asking why and start asking _____

III. God Uses Negative Circumstances To Demonstrate His _____

II Cor. 4:8-10 “We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.” (NLT)

A. God wants us to experience His resources in the circumstances

B. God wants us to look forward to His resources in _____
*II Cor. 4:16-18 "That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. **Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!** So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."* (NLT)

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IV. God Uses Negative Circumstances To Accomplish _____

A. Negative circumstances cannot _____ God's plans
Gen 50:19-20 "But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me...You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people." (NLT)

Phil. 1:12 "Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel." (NASB)

B. Negative circumstances can be _____
I Peter 4:19 "So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you." (NLT)