# Challenges, Choices and Consequences

1. **Challenges**
   a) **Jn 16:33**
   "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." [Jesus speaking]

   b) **Mt 6:34**
   Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

   c) **Acts 14:22 [Paul and Barnabas]**
   ··· strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

   d) **What kind of troubles** – sickness, disease, mental problems, emotional problems, spiritual problems, relationship problems, financial hardships, addictions, distractions

2. **Choices**
   a) **Jn 14:1 (have faith)**
   "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me." [Jesus speaking]

   b) **2 Co 4:16-18 (fix your eyes on Jesus)**
   Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. **17** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **18** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

   c) **Ph 4:4-9 (rejoice in all situations, pray, meditate on God, peace)**
   Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, 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. **9** Whatever 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.

   d) **We can let our troubles rule us or we can focus on God, seek Him in prayer, and wait for His deliverance. We need to forgive those who have hurt us. We need to pay back good for evil. It is not easy, but it is God's way.**

3. **Consequences**
   a) **Rom 2:6-11 (do good – eternal life -do evil – judgment)**
   God "will repay each person according to what they have done." To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. [11] For God does not show favoritism.

   b) **2 Th 1:5-7 (God will retaliate for us)**
   All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. [6] God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you [7] and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

   c) **Isa 49:25b**
   I will contend with those who contend with you.

   d) **Gal 6:7-8 (reaping and sewing)**
   Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

4. **Why does God allow trouble?**
   a) **2 Co 1:3-5 (to comfort others)**
   Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. [5] For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

   b) **John 16:33 (we learn to be overcomers – experience His power and peace)**
   "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." [Jesus speaking]

5. **Final Thoughts**
   a) **Rom 8:31b**
   If God is for us, who can be against us?

   b) **Rom 8:37**
   No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.