

Is it due to some error I have made that could have been avoided?

But your will often find problems and difficulties in your life that are not due to one of these two causes. And when something comes which is due to other people's sin, God ~~may~~ could have protected you from that if he had ~~chosen~~ chosen to. When it's due to other people's mistakes, God could have protected you from that if he chose. When it's due to things that aren't your fault then you can know that God permitted that thing to come into your life because it is part of His purpose in developing you the way He wants to develop you and make you truly into one of His jewels.

So the Lord says, Rejoice always, in all things rejoice. He does ~~not~~ mean to rejoice in our sins, in our mistakes. He means to rejoice for those things that come into our lives that we don't like, that aren't our fault because we know they would not come if God did not have a purpose for them in order to make us into His jewels. Of course we've noticed God's only purpose is not to make us into His jewels. That is a tremendously important part and a part that should never be forgotten, but if we gave it exclusive evidence it would fail of its purpose. An important element in making us into His jewels is using us as His tools. The more he makes us into ~~his~~ His jewels the more effective we become as His tools; but the more we learn how to be His tools, we will probably develop that ~~much~~ more into His jewels and so the two are closely fitted together.

How do we become God's tools? What do we do as His tools? We recognize that His particular purpose for us in life may vary. We read in 2 Tim. 2:20, "In a great house there are not only vessels of Gold and of Silver but also of wood and of earth and some to honor and some to dishonor." I don't think that's a very good translation - some to honor and some to dishonor. He means some to do for purposes you put up and show to the people, and some to use for purposes ~~that~~ that may be just as important as the others but that you kind of keep hidden away. They are not as visible as the others. You think of them as less honorable. But they are not necessarily less important. But God may have a purpose for one person that is very different for his purpose for another person. He gives us different gifts, and He uses us in different ways, but primarily as His tools He uses us for two purposes.

He uses us to lead others to come to Christ, to lead others to turn from their sin, to lead others to turn to Christ. I've known ~~many~~ people who are so anxious to be sure that ~~nobody~~ everybody understands that nobody can be saved except as God chooses to save them, that they think they would be wrong to urge and plead with others to turn to Christ! I think such an attitude is utterly un-Scriptural. Nobody can be saved except as God chooses to save them, but nobody knows whom God chooses to save. But we do know that God uses human instruments. God may use you to speak to somebody and they immediately turn to the Lord. And if you had not spoken to them, humanly speaking they wouldn't have and God may use you to ~~to~~ speak to (the tape recorder stopped recording, why I don't know. It kept running but not recording).

30 minutes