



Owasso First Assembly

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Using life's challenges for personal growth

Vault verse for February: Colossians 3:13 (NLT) ***Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.***

1. Developing the ability to overlook an offense is a mark of **maturity**.
2. **Using an offense** to provide an **opportunity for personal growth** is a rare quality with incredible blessing.
3. You can see challenging seasons of life or challenging people in one of three ways:
 - a. obstacles to be **avoided** at all costs
 - b. problems to **tolerate**, endure and hope to survive
 - c. opportunities to **learn, grow, develop**, and share in the sufferings of Jesus
4. The key to success managing an offense is to be filled with **grace**.

1. Difficulty is common for everyone

1 Peter 4:12–15 (NLT) *¹² Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you*

1. God did not promise **avoidance** of problems—He promises His presence and His **assistance**.

Isaiah 43:1–3 (NLT) *¹ But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine." ² When you go through deep waters, **I will be with you.** When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.*

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT) *Don't be afraid, **for I am with you.** Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. **I will strengthen you and help you.** **I will hold you up** with my victorious right hand.*

2. God wants to use your problems for your **development**.

James 1:2–4 (NLT) *² Dear brothers and sisters, **when troubles of any kind come** your way, **consider it an opportunity for great joy.** ³ For you know that **when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.** ⁴ So **let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.***

Romans 5:3–4 (NLT) *³ We can **rejoice**, too, **when we run into problems and trials**, for we know that **they help us develop endurance.** ⁴ And endurance develops **strength of character**, and character strengthens our **confident hope of salvation.***

3. The way you respond to your problems affects your future.

Hebrews 12:11 (NLT) *No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.*

4. Face difficult in life with prayer, trust, devotion, and joy. Rom 12:12 Phil 4:6-7

Pro 3:5-6 2 Cor 4:17

2. Difficult people develop your character

1. Goliath gave the opportunity for David's courage to be seen.

2. Pharaoh pushed Moses to be the deliverer of Israel.

3. Haman caused Esther to approach the King on behalf of her people, the Jews.

4. Potiphar's wife caused Joseph to go to prison so he could interpret dreams and eventually manage Egypt and provide food for the Israelites during famine.

5. The betrayal of Judas sent Jesus to the cross to be the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

6. Don't get bitter over a conflict even if the other person opposes you as an enemy.

7. Enemies can be used of God to push us to pray, rely on Him, and become our best with His help. God is working in all things!!!

8. Treat those who oppose you biblically.

Luke 6:27–31 (NLT) ²⁷ *“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you.*

Romans 12:19–21 (NLT) ¹⁹ *Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the LORD. Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.” Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.*

1 Peter 3:9 (NLT) ⁹ *Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing.*

Romans 8:16–18 (ESV) ¹⁶ *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*