

## Experience/Life Journey

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”*

–Romans 8:28

*“Now I (Paul) want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.”*

–Philippians 1:12

You have spent a lot of time reflecting on your past, how it has been formed by who you are and how you have been changed by what those experiences have been. One of the most overlooked factors in determining how God wants you to serve is your past, especially your hurts and problems. Since your greatest life messages come out of your weaknesses, not your strengths, you should pay close attention to what you have learned in that great institution of learning, the “School of Hard Knocks.”

GOD NEVER WASTES A HURT!

HE WANTS YOU TO BE OPEN TO HELPING PEOPLE WHO ARE NOW GOING THROUGH  
WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH!

*“(God) wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does He do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them the same help and comfort God has given us!”*

–1 Corinthians 1:3-4

Please understand that not all things are good. There are things that have happened to you that are horrid and painful and you cannot understand why God would allow something like that to happen to you. You must believe, however, that though the circumstance is not good in itself, God can use it in such a way that it can bring glory to Him. To understand your bad or difficult circumstances, you must not look at them from your perspective, but God’s perspective. You can be easily overwhelmed by difficult or confusing circumstances. If you put yourself in the middle of these circumstances and try to look at God, you will always have a distorted understanding of God. You must ask God for His perspective.

Begin thinking about your life, the good times and the bad. Then fill out the enclosed page entitled “Experience/Life Journey Questionnaire.” Remember, no one will see that page but you, so be honest. It is always helpful to write out feelings, because through the writing other feelings are allowed to emerge, so you are encouraged to write everything out, using additional pages if necessary.

## Experience/Life Journey Questionnaire

No one will see this page but you—be honest!

In Acts 25, Paul shares his spiritual journey before King Agrippa. There are three things included in his journey. **SHARE YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.**

1. What my life was like before I met Christ.

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2. The circumstances, people, and events that were instrumental in my coming to Christ.

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3. What my life has been like since I came to Christ.

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1. List any painful experiences (i.e., divorce, death, etc.)

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2. List positive and meaningful experiences.

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3. Indicate where you are in your Spiritual Journey.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	