

# Why In The World Do We Suffer?

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

- Suffering prepares us to COMFORT OTHERS.
- Suffering helps keep us from TRUSTING OURSELVES.
- Suffering teaches us to PRAY and GIVE THANKS – together.

## FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Why do you think we feel the need to have answers when we are suffering and going through trials, especially when the pain or loss is significant?
2. Does the Bible give any answers as to why God allows suffering in our lives? What are some of them? 2 Cor 1:3-11; Rom 5:3-5
3. Have you experienced difficulty or suffering in which received comfort, and were able to extend comfort to others? In what ways have you witnessed or personally experienced God's comfort from others?
4. What definition of God's comfort, or 'comforter' might help us in applying 2 Cor 1:3-5? What are some practical situations in which we can comfort those who are in any affliction ...?
5. Read 2 Cor 1:5; Heb 2:9-11. What was Jesus's purpose in suffering? How does that relate to us? How might that affect our mindset in working through our own trials and suffering? How can it influence our perspective in affecting others?
6. In 2 Cor 1:8-9 what purpose did Paul find in his extreme suffering and emotional distress? Have you ever experienced similar feelings? How did God work in your life?
7. Does prayer matter at all? What are some situations you believe prayer has made a difference? Why? What are some ways you currently do, or can suggest we all do, to pray more consistently and effectively for one another?

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"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle