

Becoming Legendary

Open with Prayer Requests

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7–10 and John 16:33

- Paul describes his “thorn” and Christ’s sufficient grace. What stands out to you about Paul’s response to unanswered prayer?
- Jesus promises trouble in this world. How should this shape our expectations about the Christian life?
- How have you experienced God’s strength sustaining you in difficulty?
- Why is it important to distinguish between suffering alone and suffering with Christ?

Read Romans 5:1–5

- According to Paul, what chain reaction does suffering produce in the believer’s life?
- Why does Paul say we “glory” in suffering rather than merely endure it?
- Which link in this progression (perseverance, character, hope) do you find most challenging to embrace? Why?
- How does remembering our justification and peace with God change our perspective on hardship?

Read James 1:2–4 and Hebrews 12:11

- James calls believers to consider trials as joy. What makes this command difficult in practice?
- How does viewing suffering as a “test” of faith change your approach to hardship?
- Hebrews speaks of discipline producing righteousness and peace. How does this complement James’ teaching?
- In what ways might God be shaping maturity in you right now through difficulty?

Read Acts 9:15–16 and 2 Timothy 3:12

- Jesus chose Paul as His instrument yet promised him suffering. What does this reveal about calling and cost?
- How does Paul’s life challenge the idea that comfort equals blessing?
- Paul later writes that all who pursue godliness will face persecution. How should this prepare us for ministry and witness?
- Where might we as individuals, or as a church, be tempted to choose comfort over calling?

Read Matthew 26:39 and Philippians 1:29

- Both Jesus and Paul acknowledge suffering within God’s purposes. What balance do we see between praying for relief and accepting God’s will?
- Why is it healthy to bring honest requests to God even when His answer may be “no”?
- How can suffering deepen dependence on Christ?
- What is one practical way you can lean into Christ’s strength, rather than avoid discomfort, this week?

Closing Prayer