



## MESSAGE NOTES

Doug Baker | July 17, 2022

Comfort in Affliction

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

*God won't let things lie until we have been transformed and embrace this upside down paradox of the cross...that is...that true spiritual maturity comes only through suffering.  
(The Bible Project)*

The key thought in 2 Corinthians is found in chapter 12, verses 8-10 where Paul shares his own struggle with a physical disability. This was a physical ailment that was so persistent and so distressing that he describes it as "A harassing messenger of Satan himself...a deep sea fishhook in the flesh"

*vs. 8-10 "Three times I pleaded with the Lord Jesus about this, that it would leave me! BUT he said to me, 'My Grace is sufficient for you, FOR my power is made perfect in weakness.' THEREFORE, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecution, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong"*

**What can a Christian do who feels burdened and ready to throw in the towel?**

**1. Strength to Endure Tough Times Begins with \_\_\_\_\_, 1:8-11**

*<sup>8</sup> For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup> He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. <sup>11</sup> You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.*

### 5 Kinds of Suffering

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Pathema   | 4. EouZain  |
| 2. Thilipsis | 5. Apokrima |
| 3. Bareo     |             |

2 Corinthians 11:23-30

1 Peter 1:4

Romans 5:1-5

2. Strength to Endure Tough Times Requires \_\_\_\_\_, 1:4-7

*<sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. <sup>5</sup> For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. <sup>6</sup> If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. <sup>7</sup> Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.*

“God has to work in us before he can work through us. Learning God’s truth and getting it into our head is one thing, but learning God’s truth and getting it into our character is something else - that requires trials. So God always prepares us for what he is preparing for us. And part of that preparation is suffering.”

**Warren Wiersbe, Be Series Commentary**

3. Strength to Endure Tough Times Results in \_\_\_\_\_, 1:1-3

*<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort*