

RESILIENCY IN TRYING TIMES



2 CORINTHIANS 6:3-7

EVERYONE IS WATCHING THE CHURCH

2 Corinthians 6:3-5 We live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us, and no one will find fault with our ministry. In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind. We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food.

RESILIENCY

THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS RESILIENT

He had been beaten; whipped five times; beaten with rods on three separate occasions; put in jail in Philippi; faced many angry mobs; chased out from many cities...In Iconium, they plotted to stone Paul to death...In Lystra, an angry mob did stone him...In Philippi, a mob seized Paul and Silas and had them imprisoned...In Thessalonica, a crowd looking for Paul surrounded Jason's house...In Ephesus, an enraged mob of silversmiths seized Paul's traveling companions...In Corinth, they seized Paul and brought him before the governor.

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GODLY CHARACTER TRAITS

2 Corinthians 6:6-7 (NLT) *We have proved ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, our sincere love, and the power of the Holy Spirit. We have righteousness as our weapon, both to attack and to defend ourselves. We have faithfully preached the truth. God's power has been working in us.*

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GODLY CHARACTER TRAITS OF THE MIND

Purity: avoiding sin that dishonors the Lord. To be pure means to be free of contamination. Our actions (1 Tim 5:22) and thoughts (Phil 4:8) are to be pure (holy).

Understanding: this does not refer to information. Instead, it means to have a clear understanding of the Message (Eph 3:6).

Patience: specifically speaks of our patience with people and the Lord.

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GODLY CHARACTER TRAITS OF THE HEART

Kindness: sympathy, helping people to feel relief from their pain, it is thinking of others before yourself

Love: seeks the highest good for another, no revenge, unconditional; the self-sacrificial love like Jesus

Holy Spirit: (power of) a spirit of holiness, our motive is to be holy, to be set apart, to give honor, glory, and service to the Lord.

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OUR WEAPONS FOR THE FIGHT

Righteousness: *We have righteousness as our weapon, both to attack and to defend ourselves:* A Roman soldier would arm himself with a full-length shield in his left hand and a spear in his right hand; the weapons in the right hand were to attack, the weapons in the left were to defend (see Ephesians 6:10-18).

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OUR WEAPONS FOR THE FIGHT

Truth: According to the Bible moral and spiritual truth are as much truth as mathematical, scientific, and historical truth.

John 8:31-32 *Jesus said to the people who believed in him, You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

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OUR WEAPONS FOR THE FIGHT

Power: *Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

We will receive power do what? To fight; be God's witnesses; Power from the Holy Spirit that releases courage, boldness, confidence, insight, ability, and authority for the mission and service to the Lord.

We will receive power: (Dunamis); force; miraculous power; ability, strength, power for action and service to the Lord!

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