

“Strength in Suffering” (2 Corinthians 1:1–11)

Sermon Application Review from N/A

Scripture References

1. 2 Corinthians 1:1–11
2. Psalm 34:17–19; 103:13–14
3. Lamentations 3:22–24
4. Colossians 1:24–29
5. Romans 5:3–5
6. James 1:2–4
7. Romans 4:17–21

Study Questions

1. How have you sensed God’s call upon your life (1:1)? In what ways have you experienced “team ministry”? How has your heart for CBC and other churches grown this past year? Why do you think Paul makes a practice of greeting his readers with “grace” and “peace” (1:2)? What is theologically significant about these words?
2. How frequently do you “bless” God (1:3)? How can you grow in the spiritual discipline of worship in 2024? In what ways have you experienced the “mercies” of God? How has God provided comfort, encouragement, and strength in your affliction?
3. In what ways are you suffering today (e.g., physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, relationally, financially)? How have you brought comfort to others in 2023 (1:4)? How might you comfort others in the future? How does comforting others help you see God’s providence in your trials (1:4)?
4. What types of extreme suffering have caused you to despair of life itself (1:8)? What have you done in these circumstances? To whom have you turned? Why is it so important to rely on God rather than yourself amid suffering (1:9)? Why is suffering such a powerful tool for spiritual growth? How is it able to draw us closer to God and prepare us for greater ministry service?
5. What positive outcome results from many people praying (1:11)? Why is it important to express gratitude for answered prayer? How do we express thanks to those who faithfully pray? How can we grow in our commitment to corporate prayer?

Recommended Reading

Kenneth Boa with Jenny Abel, *Shaped by Suffering: How Temporary Hardships Prepare Us for Our Eternal Home* (IVP, 2020)

Elisabeth Elliot, *Suffering Is Never for Nothing* (B&H, 2019)

Douglas Groothuis, *Walking Through Twilight A Wife’s Illness—A Philosopher’s Lament* (IVP, 2017)

Jerry Sittser, *A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows through Loss*, expanded ed. (Zondervan, 2004)