

Twisted Truth Series

“The Proper View of Trouble”

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 NLT

Since trouble is inevitable and a necessary part of life, how should it be viewed by the child of God – [John 16:33](#), [2 Timothy 3:12](#), [Psalm 34:19](#)? Many believers do not view trouble Biblically. Most totally ignore God, what He has done, or what He is doing when trouble comes. Many ignore the directions given in God’s Word concerning trouble and try to handle trouble without God – [Proverbs 14:12](#), [Proverbs 3:5-6](#), [James 1:1-5](#). Of course, Satan uses trouble to distract the believer from the truth of God, and the power of God – [Matthew 4:4](#).

Paul shows us how to properly view trouble in [2 Corinthians 12](#):

- 1) **Privileged Place - (verses 1-5)**: Remember God places each believer in a blessed place when he saves us – [Ephesians 1:3-5,11,13](#). Whenever there is trouble it cannot occur unless there have been blessings first. God is the source of all blessings. When a person gets sick they are well first. You cannot lose money you don’t have. Lights cannot be cut off that had not first been on. Your car cannot break down if it has not been running. There are always blessings before trouble, but most focus on what Satan shows us rather than what God has already done and how He has kept His Word. Before talking about his trouble Paul gives glory to God for his blessings – [verses 1-5](#).

- 2) **Protected Place - (verses 6-7):** most believers forget the power of God when trouble comes. Most forget that trouble cannot cancel nor nullify the Word of God and His promises – [Psalm 34:19](#), [Romans 8:28](#), [Romans 8:31](#), [Isaiah 54:17](#), [Hebrews 13:5-6](#). Therefore when God allows trouble to come into our lives we must know that God does not ever stop protecting us. His eye is continually on us – [2 Corinthians 10:13](#). He is in control of the trouble. Paul shows us this in our text. Because of the multitude of blessings and God’s destiny for Paul, God has to protect Paul from being derailed by his blessings – [verses 6-7](#).
- 3) **Praying Place – (verses 8-9):** Once again when most believers encounter trouble, prayer is not the first response. Usually, it is frustration, anger, question “why me” sorrow, confusion, disobedience, and even abandonment of purpose. Most do not obey the Word of God concerning prayer – [Philippians 4:6-7](#), [1 Peter 5:6-7](#). The first thing that Paul does is to pray [verses 8-9](#). Not what happened while he was praying:
- a. He talked to God – begged the Lord
 - b. He asked for relief – take it away
 - c. Jesus answered him while he was praying ([vs9](#))
 - d. Jesus explained how His power works
 - e. Paul immediately changed his attitude
- 4) **Participating Place - (Verse 10):** – most of us think that we have no role in our troubles. We do not participate but just wait for God or others to deliver us. Note Paul’s participation in [verse 10](#).