

## Never A Need to Despair!

I love Paul's words of encouragement found in 2 Corinthians 4:7-10. *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."*

They remind us that no matter how dark our circumstances may look, we can depend on the Lord. The Lord alone will always protect us, help us and be with us during our most difficult times. Most of all The Lord alone is the One who can deliver us! Tony Evans says, "Too many believers don't experience close fellowship with God. As a result of the distance, they don't get to see God work on their behalf in a dramatic way".

*"...this all-surpassing power..."* Sometimes the Lord will lead you between a rock and a hard place, so He can allow you to experience His power to deliver, like He did with the Israelites at the Red Sea.

*"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed..."* The Lord has promised to always be there for us in our greatest time of need, *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble"* (Psalm 46:1-2). Hebrews 13:6 also declares, *"So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*

*“...perplexed, but not in despair...”* To be in despair means that we officially conclude that the situation is hopeless. But we never need to give up if God is on your side. Romans 8:31 makes it plain, *“...If God is for us, who can be against us?”*

*“...persecuted, but not abandoned...”* One of God’s promises we are reminded of the most is that He will never leave us or turn His back (forsake) us. In Deuteronomy 31:8 Moses reminds Joshua of this when he hands over the leadership reins, *“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged”*. We must be like the Psalmist who wrote, *You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word*” (Psalm 119:114).

*“...struck down, but not destroyed...”* No matter what we face, even death itself, never forget that God’s grace is all we need to endure and make it through. In 2 Corinthians 12:9 Paul begged for mercy, but The Lord gave him grace instead *“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”*

**Think about it:** Are you feeling overwhelmed by your circumstances today?

**Pray about it:** Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will

take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the  
disaster has passed (Psalm 57:1)

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