



**August 6, 2023**

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**The story of Elijah comes to an end in 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 2:9 – 12.**

Proverbs 12:25

Proverbs 13:12

**The Apostle Paul's Salvation Story Acts 9:3 – 9**

1. Deserted by all his lifelong friends. Mistrusted by the group he wanted to join.
2. Escaped from death threats.
3. Stoned, and drug out of town, and left for dead.
4. Strong enough to walk thousands of miles.
5. Able to survive an assassination plot by 40 men.
6. Five times he was whipped with 39 lashes each time.
7. Stripped naked and left in the cold.
8. Repeatedly escaping bandits.
9. Shipwrecked 3 times.
10. Lost in the open sea for a day and a night.
11. Beaten publicly with rods 3 times.

12. Bitten by a poisonous snake, which he shook off into the fire.
13. Repeatedly questioned, threatened, and chased out of different towns.
14. Often deprived of food, water, and sleep.
15. Falsely arrested numerous times.
16. Imprisoned without fair trials.
17. Chained to a prison wall for 2 years.
18. Isolated in Roman jails and condemned to be executed.

**What was Paul's secret to persevering through all these traumatic events?**

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:8 – 9

**Why does God allow faithful Christians who are walking in the light to go through times of suffering?**

**I. God Blesses Us With Positive Events.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:1 – 6

**What would a trip to heaven for one hour do for your perspective your own earth?**

Colossians 3:1 – 2

**II. God Balances Our Life With Negatives.** Versus 7 – 8

Galatians 6:11, 4:15

**How does Paul respond to this physical difficulty?** Verse 8

Psalms 119:71

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:3 – 4

**III. God Builds Bridges Using Both Positive and Negative.**

Versus 9 – 10

**When You Face Trials, There Are Only 3 Options.**

**Option number 1 – you can get mad and resentful.**

**Option number 2 – you can grit your teeth and use willpower to get through it.**

**Option number 3 – you can depend on God's grace.**

