



Sermon Discussion Guide

12.04.22 Message | Keith Ehresman | 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Key Scriptures:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

- Hebrews 10:23

Message Highlights:

- When Jesus was born, hope was born into this world.
- Paul argues that his suffering is the means God uses to reveal his glory.
- God comforts us in our afflictions, not from our afflictions.
- God's comfort is not intended to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters.

Conversation Starter:

Have you ever played a comparison game in suffering? How does this comparison game hinder what is supposed to be a circular cycle of comforting one another out of our afflictions?



Discuss the Message:

1. The opposite of hope is affliction, yet God uses our afflictions to reveal his glory. How have you seen your afflictions and God's hope intersect?
 - a. Oftentimes we aren't able to see hope in our afflictions until after the sufferings have run their course; how might we be able to experience the hope and comfort of God amidst those sufferings?
 - b. What afflictions have you endured that allowed you to minister to others who are experiencing similar afflictions?
2. What purpose do Paul and Timothy say their suffering served in 2 Corinthians 1:9?
 - a. When have you come to the "end of your rope" in a sense, and in turn were reminded of your dependence on God?
 - b. Are there comforts or indulgences you can intentionally turn away from to remind you of your dependence on God? What might those be?
3. Using 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 as your guide, describe the kind of comforter God is.
 - a. How does God's way of comforting differ from how the world tells us to find comfort?
 - b. When we think of relief from suffering, we oftentimes think about it being completely taken away from us. How does God's Word show us that escape from suffering is not necessarily the goal?

Pray:

Dear Father, our comforter and sustainer, we praise your holy name! We are so grateful for your kingship over all things. Whether we are in a season of suffering or not, help us to recognize our utter dependence on you. Thank you for allowing us to be conduits of your light. Forgive us when we are tempted to turn inward during seasons of suffering. Help us to recognize our unique spheres of influence as we minister to others who experience afflictions similar to ours. With our whole hearts, we love you. Thank you for loving us first. Amen.