

# That We Should Not Trust In Ourselves But In God Who Raises From the Dead

Easter Sunday 2013

2 Cor 1:3-10

---

2Co 1:9 (KJV) ... **that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:**

## **The Bible contrasts those who trust in man vs those who trust in the LORD**

- Jeremiah 17:5-8 This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. (6) That person will be like **a bush in the wastelands**; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. (7) "But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. (8) They will be like **a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream**. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

2Co 1:3-10

## **Paul's road to trust marked with trouble, pressure beyond our ability, despair**

- 2Co 1:8-10 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the *troubles* we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under *great pressure*, far *beyond our ability to endure*, so that we *despaired of life itself*. 9 Indeed, we felt we had *received the sentence of death*. **But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God**, who raises the dead. 10 He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,

## **Most of us want to avoid trouble - but what if it moves us to this kind of TRUST**

### **Trouble is inevitable...but TAKE HEART -**

- Joh 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world **you will have trouble. But take heart! [but be courageous]** I have overcome the world."

## 6 good things that come out of trouble

### 1) We experience God's mercy & comfort personally

2Co 1:3 - 4a 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,

- **What is mercy? - pity, compassion**
- **What is comfort? - comfort, consolation, exhortation, intreaty - encouragement**
  - Lamentations 3:21-24 This I recall to my mind, therefore **have I hope**. (22) It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. (23) They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. (24) The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; **therefore will I hope in him**.

Hear some stories of people who experienced God in a way that was **not possible without the trouble** - in a sense the trouble MAGNIFIED the Mercy and Compassion of God.

- The children of Israel in trouble at the Red Sea - but GOD Showed Up
- The widow - in trouble lot's of debt, no money, no husband - But GOD Showed Up
- Joseph - in trouble, rejection, false imprisonment - But GOD Showed Up
- Stephen was in trouble being stoned to death - But GOD Showed Up
- Daniel in trouble in the lion's den - But GOD Showed Up
- Shadrach Meshach Abednego in trouble in the furnace - But GOD Showed Up

1Pe 1:6-7 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 **These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

Isa 48:10 See, I have refined you, though not as silver; **I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.**

Job 23:10 But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, **I will come forth as gold.**

1Pe 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, **will himself restore you** and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

## 2) We are equipped to help others

### **We are equipped to help others by the comfort He has shown to us**

- 2 Corinthians 1:4 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.
  1. Bob Grewe - help others
  2. Have you struggled financially - you can help others
  3. Have you struggled through a rocky marriage - you can help others
  4. Have you struggled to overcome addictions - you can help others
  5. Have you felt lonely - discouraged - outcast - you can help others

## 3) We mature because we see God's plan beyond our personal pain

- 2 Corinthians 1:5-7 For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. (6) **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. (7) Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.
  1. Joseph saw beyond his pain - you meant it for evil - God meant it for GOOD

## 4) We have a testimony for the glory of God

- 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 **For we do not want you to be ignorant**, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were **so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself**. (9) 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.
  1. Testimonies give glory to God
  2. Testimonies give hope to others - someone else has gone through this and survived
  3. Testimonies helps us to NOT forget the good things the LORD has done

## 5) We reposition our trust on HIM - since there is nothing I can do

- 2 Corinthians 1:9 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**.
  1. To move us to TRUST

## 6) We have confidence for the future

- 2 Corinthians 1:9-11 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. (10) ***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***. (11) 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.
  - He HAS delivered - past tense
  - He will deliver us NOW - present tense
  - Hope that He WILL deliver us AGAIN - future tense

**Trouble can never separate us from the Love of Christ** - Romans 8:35 Who will separate us from the Messiah's love? Can trouble, distress, persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger, or a violent death do this?