

Study Guide

Sunday November 8, 2020

“Embracing Weakness”

1. → 2 Corinthians 1:3-12

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. 6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 7 And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. 8 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.

2. Points to Remember

- A. It is during the times of pressure that God changes us for good.
- B. The secret of enduring hardship is how we respond to it.
- C. Most of modern Christianity lacks a theology for suffering.
- D. Pain and suffering are simply reminders that we are human.
- E. Faith teaches us to embrace our weaknesses and rely on God.

3. Bible Verses

Galatians 5:10-12	Paul before Ephesus
Philippians 1:18	Paul after Ephesus
Hebrews 12:7-11	Endure hardship as discipline
Colossians 1:24-25	Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you
Philippians 3:10-11	And participation in his sufferings
2 Corinthians 12:9-10	I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses

4. Discussion Questions

- A. How do you typically respond when times of hardship come?
- B. Do you think there is a place for suffering or should it be avoided?
- C. How have your weaknesses taught you to rely on God more?