

TROUBLED ON EVERY SIDE

2 Corinthians 4:8, 7:5

When we go through troubling times that cause us to fear, to have doubts, or to be insecure, if we will look for God's purpose in those circumstances, we might find the benefit and the blessing that God wants us to receive. Today we will survey the Second Epistle to the Corinthians for help in understanding the troubles in our lives.

THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT (1:3)

2 Cor 1:1-3 In Paul's introduction to this letter, he tells the believers in Corinth that he found the "God of all comfort."

Come: with you, there.

Fort: (fortify, fortification), something that is strong, a strong place.

The God of all Comfort: The God who gives strength with us. He is our refuge, our habitation, our high tower. He can keep us strong through any trial.

2 Cor 1:4 God lets us go through trials so we can comfort others when they face similar trials, reassuring them that God has a purpose for it and that He knows what He's doing.

GOD IS ABLE TO DELIVER US

2 Cor 1:8-10 God has delivered us from the greatest death, from the power of death (Heb 2:14, Rev 20:6). He can deliver us from any trial that threatens our physical life.

PAUL'S STRUGGLES WHILE SERVING THE LORD

2 Cor 2:4 It caused Paul much affliction and anguish of heart to rebuke the brethren for their faults and exhort them to do right. He cared for them deeply.

2 Cor 2:12-13 Paul was distressed when Titus went missing and God had called him to go into Macedonia to preach the gospel (Acts 16:10).

TRIALS HELP ME LIVE FOR CHRIST INSTEAD OF MYSELF

2 Cor 4:8-12 God lets us go through trials to remind us that He can deliver us, to help us to die to ourselves, and to remember that our life belongs to Him.

2 Cor 5:14-15 Experiencing trials reminds us that our life belongs to Christ who died for us. It helps us to die to ourselves and makes us more useful to the Lord.

LOOKING AT THE ETERNAL HELPS ME DEAL WITH THE TEMPORAL

2 Cor 4:10 Trials and troubles help me to keep my eyes on heaven, desiring to be with the

4:16-18 Lord. Earthly comforts tend to make us forget about eternal things.

5:1-4

SEPARATING THE WORLD—FROM THE THINGS OF GOD

2 Cor 6:3-10 In this world, you may have nothing. You might be considered a failure. But in Christ, you possess all things. Even if you're poor in this world, you have within you the ability to make many people rich by preaching Christ and winning souls (Mark 8:36-37).

GOD SENDS COMFORT IN TIMES OF DISTRESS

2 Cor 7:4-6 We appreciate God's blessings more in times of tribulation and distress. It reminds you that God is still working with you.

THE MACEDONIAN CHARITY WHILE UNDERGOING THEIR OWN TRIALS.

2 Cor 8:1-5 Poverty can produce liberality, afflictions can yield joy, suffering can make you more involved in God's work.

JESUS CHRIST, OUR EXAMPLE (2 Cor 8:9)

I CAN EVEN PRAISE GOD FOR MY TROUBLES 2 Cor 11:23-30 (See also Romans 5:3)

THE RESULT OF LIFE'S TROUBLES—TRUST IN THE LORD'S STRENGTH

2 Cor 12:7-10 When you realize how weak you are, you will trust the Lord more.

2 Cor 12:15 You will willingly and gladly spend your life for the brethren.

EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH WEAKNESS

2 Cor 13:3-4 The secret to having the power of God is discovered through weakness. You'll be able to accomplish more for the Lord when you accept your own weaknesses.