

STRENGTH *in* WEAKNESS

Immovable Hope

2 Corinthians 1:8-11 (ESV)

⁸ 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. 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. 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.

Some encouragements for **hurting or struggling people**:

Don't be _____ ...

Be _____ ...

Lean on _____ ...

Set your _____ ...

_____ God anyway ...

In my suffering, I can thank God for ...

Why we struggle so much when suffering and difficulty comes:

A lofty view of _____

Unrealistic _____ about life

Bad _____

Where should suffering fit in my understanding of the Christian life?

Suffering can be an opportunity for God to _____.

John 9:1-3 (ESV)

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but **that the works of God might be displayed** in him.

Suffering can turn me away from _____.

Psalms 119:67 (ESV)

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.

Suffering can strip away _____.

Philippians 4:11b-12 (ESV)

... I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

Suffering can make me _____.

Acts 2:23 (ESV)

... **this Jesus**, delivered up **according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God**, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Philippians 3:10 (ESV)

... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings**, becoming like him in his death ...

Suffering can allow me to _____.

Job 13:15 (ESV)

Though he slay me, I will hope in him ...

Suffering demonstrates the destructive power of _____ and the redeeming power of the _____ and the resurrecting power of the empty _____.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (ESV)

For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Suffering displays the _____ of my earthly body and reminds me of the _____ of my eternal one.

2 Corinthians 5:1-2 (ESV)

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling ...

Suffering creates a _____ for God and heaven.

Romans 8:18 (ESV)

For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**