

STRENGTH *in* WEAKNESS

Sometimes Pain Heals

2 Corinthians 1:23-2:4 (ESV)

²³ But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

¹ For I made up my mind not to make another painful visit to you. ² For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained?

³ And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. ⁴ For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

The **context**:

Paul's **2 goals**:

Their _____

Their _____

Paul's **1 motivation**:

His _____

An important application for those who like to "tell it like it is":

How to **share a hard word**:

Pray for _____ and _____.

Check your _____. Check your _____.

Be _____ them, not _____ them.

Always give _____.

How to **receive a hard word**:

Confront _____.

This means I can't ...

This means I must ...

Consider any _____ that your _____ is teaching you.

Choose _____ over _____.

Be convinced that genuine _____ is possible (and do not quit working towards it!)

My response: