

God Works Through Weakness and Suffering

II Corinthians 1:3-11, Pastor Daniel Patrick

Background: In II Corinthians Paul continues to address the church in various issues from his Apostleship to his concerns for the church. Paul tells them that the things he has experienced have been for their strength and comfort. God often uses our struggles to encourage others by watching how we depend upon God. God told Paul that His plan for Paul included suffering.

Why do you think suffering catches us off guard?

What are two things Paul mentions that have been to the benefit of the Corinthian church due to Paul's life? (see verses 4, 6).

In II Cor. 1:6 Paul says, "It is for your comfort and salvation," as in deliverance for them not eternal salvation. How does it help you when others share their struggles with you?

Can you think of others who have suffered in life by choice that impacted your life for the better? Who?

II Corinthians 1:9 Paul states that his struggles helped them to rely upon God. What are some struggles that have helped you rely upon Him?

How did God use that for your good?

What are some of the things Jesus suffered, and how did that benefit you?

II Corinthians 1:20-22 states that all of God's promises are "Yes" in Christ. What are some of the promises that Jesus has fulfilled for us?

What do you hope others are learning about Jesus as you have faced struggles or are facing them now?

Take some time and thank God for how He has carried you, and how He is using your struggles to help you to rely on and know Him better.