

Series "Strength In Weakness"
"Why Do I Hurt?"
2 Corinthians 1:1-11
Study-1

God was using Paul in an awesome way, **1 Corinthians 16:9** (3 Years in Ephesus that all of Asia heard the gospel)

With "Opportunities" Comes "Opposition."

1 Corinthians we are looking at **The Corinthians**. In **2 Corinthians**, we are looking at **The Apostle Paul**.

2 Corinthians has been referred to as **"Paul's Unknown Letter."**

The Background: Paul Planted the Church - Paul the Apostle did **Acts 18:1-18**. He spent 18 months there, 52-53 AD. He visited again on his 3rd missionary trip, **Acts 20:2-3**.

There were pockets of resistance, so Paul, through **2 Corinthians**, addresses some questions that were leveled against him personally.

Author: 2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

The Location: Paul was in Macedonia (Greece) and wrote from Philippi (**2 Corinthians 7:5-6**)

The Date: Winter 56 AD.

The Purpose: He wrote to let the believers know why he was suffering in Asia (1:3-11) and why he changed his plans. The ministry of grace. His separation from false teachers and to follow up on the offering for Jerusalem.

Key Verses: 2 Corinthians 4:1, 6

Key Word: "Comfort" Encouragement is used in one form or another **29 times**.

Theme: "Power Out Of Weakness" "Strength In Weakness"
Standing firm in the faith.

The Outline:

1-5 Paul's Explanation Of His Ministry:
6-9 Paul's Exhortation To The Church:
10-13 Paul's Vindication Of His Apostleship:

Note the word **"Suffering" is used 8 times**.

There is also God's "Comfort" – **10 times** in Verses 1-7

Job 5:7 For man is born for trouble, As sparks fly upward.

Thought Of Our Passage: "When Hurting, Remember Who God Is, So We Can Comfort Others And Keep Trusting And Seeking Him."

- 1. Verses 1-3 Remember Who God Is**
- 2. Verses 4-7 Remember To Comfort Others**
- 3. Verses 8-10 Remember To Trust God**
- 4. Verse 11 Remember To Pray**

1. Verses 1-3 Remember Who God Is

2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus

The term **Apostle** is a "messenger" or "one sent."

by the will of God, Paul was not seeking after apostleship. He was not self-appointed.

to the church of God - It is not our Church; it is God's church!

The church is made up of people that God has called out of the world system.

which is at Corinth

The city was a Grecian city that was wealthy and extremely important.

with all the saints - which means "*True believers, set apart Ones.*"

who are throughout Achaia: Area of Southern Greece.

2 Corinthians 1:2 Grace to you and peace

This order is the divine order.

2 Corinthians 1:3 (Launches Into Why Christians Suffer?)

3 Things To Remember About God When We Hurt:

- 1. Remember God Is To Be Blessed: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,** - Notice that Paul here is blessing God.

Job's Example: Job 1:20-21

Job 2 (Job finally loses his health.)

- 2. Remember God Is The Father Of Mercies: the Father of mercies**

Father – "*the originator, the source of, the origin.*"

Satan, John 8:44 "Father of lies" (Not Washington DC or Sacramento)

Mercy has been defined as "*not getting what we deserve*" Note it is plural **mercies**, which means that "*God has an allowance for mercy in every conceivable way.*"

Psalms 145:9 The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.

3. Remember The God Of All Comfort: God of all comfort;
The word **comfort** is used **10 times** in Verses 1-7

Comfort – literally, "*to call to one's side to strengthen*" (Not a lighter load but a stronger back)

God Gives Comfort, Not Sympathy – Sympathy can weaken us.

1 Peter 5:7, 10

We need to remember who God is! Mark 4:38-40

2. Verses 4-7 Remember To Comfort Others

2 Corinthians 1:4 who comforts us in all our affliction

This word **affliction** means "*Pressure.*" God will comfort us; this is what the promise is.

Some Afflictions Are The Result Of Sin -
Some Afflictions Are For Our Growth -

so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Note: God's comfort is not given to us but is actually loaned. God expects us to pass it on to others!

2 Corinthians 1:5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance,

sufferings of Christ - That Jesus suffered, disciples, apostles, the early church. Being a Christian means suffering. **Philippians 3:10**

so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. Note God's Mathematics! That with the afflictions, **God doubles down the comfort.**

2 Corinthians 1:6

1. Our Affliction Can Result In Comfort And Salvation To Others: (Watching Us)
2. Our Comfort Brings Both Comfort, And Patience In Character To Others.

2 Corinthians 1:7

and our **hope** for you is firmly grounded,
What a difference Jesus Christ makes. **Romans 15:4**

Hope - "A Sure Expectation Of A Future Event!"

Sharers Of Suffering: Philippians 1:29-30

Sharers Of Comfort: (Comfort, God's Help In Our Suffering)

3. Verses 8-10 Remember To Trust God

2 Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction

Paul is admitting his shortcomings so that the believers can learn from Paul, pray for Paul.

which came to us in Asia, - We don't know for sure, but it possibly the riot at Ephesus (**Acts 19:23-41**) **2 Corinthians 7:5** (Physical and Mental)

3 Important Facts About Trusting In God:

1. Trust In God Who Can Strengthen Us: that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 1 Corinthians 10:13

2 Corinthians 1:9

2. In God Alone, We Must Trust: Why does God bring us to death's door? so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

but in God who raises the dead; - That was a lesson that Abraham learned.

2 Corinthians 1:10

3. Trusting A Faithful God Who Will Deliver Us: (Past Deliverance) who delivered us from so great a peril of death,

(Future Deliverance) and will deliver us,

(Present Deliverance) He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,

Genesis 50:20

Remember, Keep Trusting God:

4. Verse 11 Remember To Pray

2 Corinthians 1:11

Praying For Others: you also joining in helping us through your prayers,

Prayer Is Dependence Upon God:

Praying Will Result In Thanksgiving: so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many.

Application:

- 1. Remember Who God Is:** God Is Always To Be Blessed, God Is The Author of All Mercies, And The God Of All Comfort.
- 2. Remember To Comfort Others:** Comfort Is Loaned, Not Given. Comfort Starts With Us And Finishes In Blessing Others.
- 3. Remember To Trust God:** In God Who Can Strengthen Us. In God Who Wants Us To Fully Trust Him. In God Who Will Surely Deliver Us.
- 4. Remember To Pray:** When We Pray For Others, It Will Result In Praise.