

**2 Corinthians 1:8 - 11 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup>For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

<sup>9</sup>indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

<sup>10</sup>who delivered us from so great a *peril of death*, and will deliver *us*, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,

<sup>11</sup>you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through *the prayers of many*.

1. God works out His purposes in the trials of life, if we trust/obey Him.
2. Difficulties can increase our faith and strengthen our prayer lives.
3. Difficulties can draw us closer to other believers.
4. Difficulties can be used to glorify God. Remember what God has done for you.

Here are the possible reasons for Paul's words: **2 Corinthians 1:8 - 9 (NASB)**

(1) Paul was afflicted with a serious illness, perhaps loosely connected to his "thorn in the flesh" (see 12:1-10).

(2) Paul was imprisoned in Ephesus, an event to which Paul might have been alluding when he wrote of fighting "wild beasts in Ephesus" (see 1 Corinthians 15:23-31).

(3) Paul had feared for his life during the riot instigated by the Ephesian silversmiths (see Acts 19:31).

Paul was confident that God not only had delivered him in the past but also would **deliver** him in the future. Because God is faithful, He is always ready to comfort and deliver His children.

### LAMENTATIONS 3:21 - 23 (KJV)

<sup>21</sup>THIS I RECALL TO MY MIND, THEREFORE HAVE I HOPE.

<sup>22</sup>IT IS OF THE LORD'S MERCIES THAT WE ARE NOT CONSUMED, BECAUSE HIS COMPASSIONS FAIL NOT.

<sup>23</sup>THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING: GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS.

**The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (2 Tim. 4:16-18)**

*Paul knew that God would bring him safely through every circumstance until it was time for him to enter the Lord's presence.*

PETER WROTE OF THE SAME REALITY IN 2 PETER 2:9: "THE LORD KNOWS HOW TO RESCUE THE GODLY FROM TEMPTATION, AND TO KEEP THE UNRIGHTEOUS UNDER PUNISHMENT FOR THE DAY OF JUDGMENT."

- The confidence of God's comfort led Paul to describe Him as **He on whom we have set our hope** (Ps. 71:5; Rom. 15:13; 1 Tim. 1:1).
- The more believers suffer and experience God's comfort, the stronger their **hope** in Him grows (Rom. 5:3-5).

#### MONDAY MORNING MOMENT: **ACTION STEP**

*"Sometimes God delivers us from our trials, and at other times He delivers us in our trials"*

#### **DANIEL 3:16 - 18 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup>SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABED-NEGO REPLIED TO THE KING, "O NEBUCHADNEZZAR, WE DO NOT NEED TO GIVE YOU AN ANSWER CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

<sup>17</sup>"IF IT BE SO, OUR GOD WHOM WE SERVE IS ABLE TO DELIVER US FROM THE FURNACE OF BLAZING FIRE; AND HE WILL DELIVER US OUT OF YOUR HAND, O KING.

<sup>18</sup>"BUT *EVEN* IF *HE* DOES NOT, LET IT BE KNOWN TO YOU, O KING, THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO SERVE YOUR GODS OR WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE THAT YOU HAVE SET UP."