

WORD

with Ps Simon Say

FROM PAIN TO PRAISE

2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-11 (NIV 1984)

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⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

How Pain Changed Paul

(2 Corinthians 1: 8-11)

- What He **Faced** (v8)
- What He **Learned** (v9)
- What He **Experienced** (v10)
- Who He Was **Thankful** For (v11)





As He Faced It (v8)

- *"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered..."* (2 Corinthians 1: 8)
- Paul (and his team) faced unprecedented pressure
- He even thought of dying as he came to the end of the road
- He no longer could rely on his ability but on the One Who is able

What was your most painful experience?

What happened to you, emotionally, physically and spiritually, as you bore that weight?

As He Learned From It (v9)

- When in pain, we often ask the 'Why' question.
- Answer rather than question...
- *"...we felt the sentence of death" ... "this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead" (2 Cor. 1: 9)*
- You can't solve your own problems, only God can!

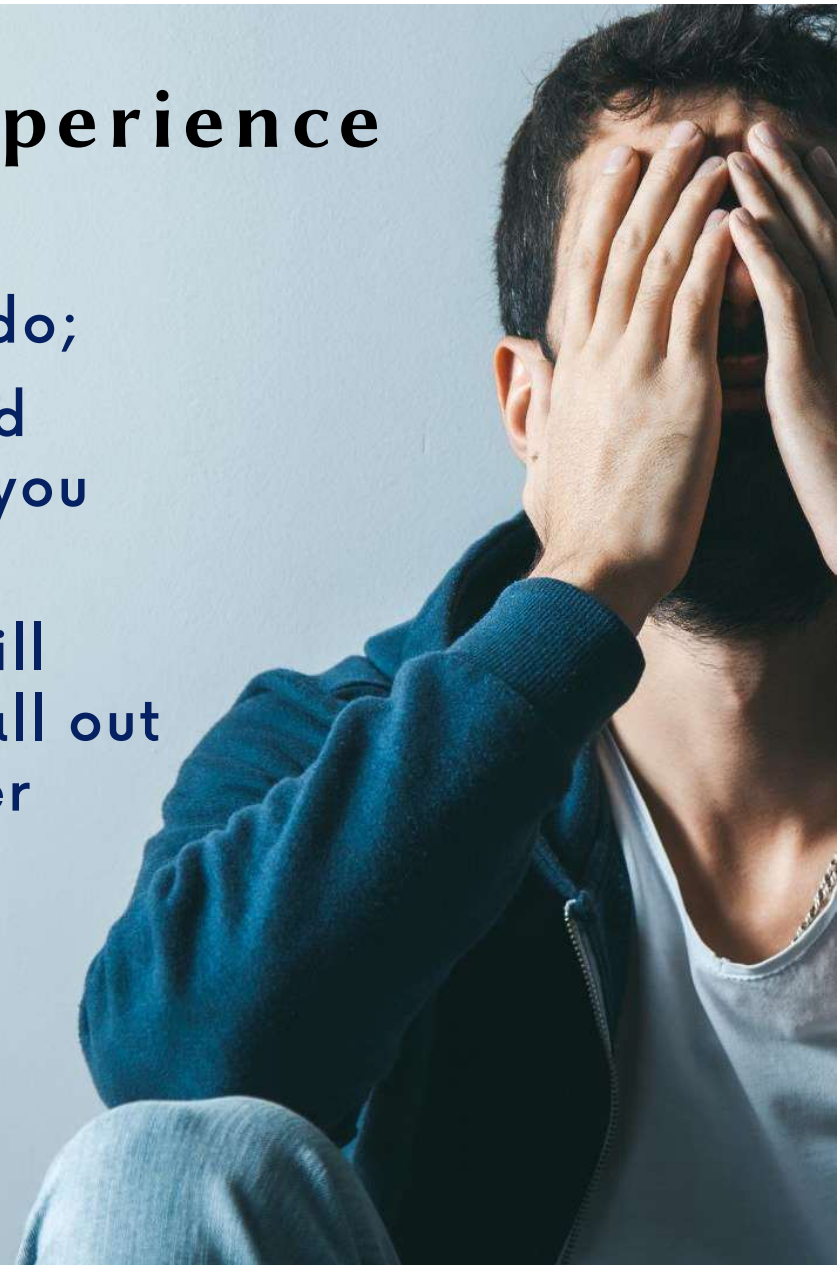
What have you learnt about yourself and about God from your pain or suffering?



Why do believers need to experience pain?

- It is the way you discover what God can do;
- It is for someone who is watching you, and seeing how you handle the pressure that you are going through;
- It is to break the stubborn spirit of self-will within us that insists on trying to work it all out by our own resources, or run to some other human resource, or in some way refuse to acknowledge that we need divine help;
- It is sent to us to show us that we are not individuals living alone in life.

Ray Stedman: Sermon on 'Why It Hurts So Much?'



As He Experienced It (v10)

God's experience for Paul through His **3-fold deliverance**.

- *"He has delivered... He will deliver... He will continue to deliver..."* (2 Corinthians 1:10)
- *"Has delivered"* - The Past;
"Will Deliver" - The Present;
"Will Continue To Deliver" - The Future
- *"...into his heavenly kingdom"* (2 Timothy 4:17-18)

Think of a time when our Lord delivered you from the pain.



As He Gave Thanks For It (v11)

"...you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many" (2 Corinthians 1:11)

- The Corinthians' prayers enable the Lord's deliverance over Paul
- The Lord's Prayer

How thankful were you when you went through your pain and suffering?



The Prayer Our Lord Taught Us

Statement	Principle
"Our Father in heaven,..." (Mt. 6: 9)	Presence and Position
"Hallowed be Your name,..." (Mt. 6: 9)	Praise
"Your kingdom come, Your will be done..." (Mt. 6: 10)	Purpose
"Give us today..." (Mt. 6: 10)	Petition
"Forgive us our debts...as we also have forgiven..." (Mt. 6: 12)	Pardon
"And lead us not into temptation..." (Mt. 6: 13)	Protection



PETITION

The Hand Prayer

Application



Hebrews 12:2-3

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the author and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before him
endured the cross, scorning its shame
and sat down on the right hand of the
throne of God.

Consider him who endured such opposition
from sinful men,
so that you will not grow weary and lose
heart.



Reflection

- What are the 4 key points that caused Paul to change as he faced the pain of his life?
- Why do you think God wants to help us overcome our pain?
- Recall an unresolved pain. How do you feel about that pain?
- Is there someone who can help you and be accountable to you in overcoming your pain?
- What else is the Holy Spirit asking you to do?