

Praying from Places of Pain

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

A Word of Praise v.3-4a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction.

Comfort in Trouble v.4-7

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

For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.

Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

Trouble Can Be Overwhelming v.8

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

Rely on God v.9

Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

Affirmation of the God Who Delivers v 10

He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

God Works Through the Prayers of His People v 11

You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

Observations from Others:

Prayer is neither surrender to the inevitability of God's will nor the attempt to manipulate God to do our will. Prayer is the entrance at God's marvelous invitation into the effecting of deliverance and salvation in the world.ⁱ

The apostle understood that God, in his sovereignty, allows His people to participate in His work in the world through prayer.ⁱⁱ

What We Know:

1. God has a purpose in suffering.
2. The desired outcomes of suffering are: Reliance on God & Strengthened hope in God.
3. Prayer is the divinely ordained means of God's deliverance.

How to Pray for Hospital and Emergency Workers

1. Remember your experience and God's provision in the past. Thank and Praise God now!
2. Pray for Christian care givers, providers, and patients.
3. Pray that all health care professionals and patients would come to understand they are helpless in the face of death.
4. God is a delivering God. Pray that he will deliver us in this COVID-19 crisis.

ⁱ Seifrid, M. A. (2014). *The Pillar New Testament Commentary: The Second Letter to the Corinthians*. (D. A. Carson, Ed.) (p. 44). Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.; England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; Apollos.

ⁱⁱ Hubbard, M. V. (2017). *2 Corinthians*. (M. L. Strauss, Ed.) (p. 18). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books: A Division of Baker Publishing Group.