

Suffering Message 9

Perry Duggar November 14, 2021

Outline

....For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:10 (NLT)

A. Introduction

(2 Corinthians 11:16-33; Acts 9:15-16)

B. Suffering... (2 Corinthians 12:1-10)

1. Doesn't deny_

(2 Corinthians 12:1-4. C/R; John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 2:19-21; 4:12-13)

Answers: B.1. faith 2. spiritual condition 3. Christ

Resource Information: Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

2. Displays my ______ (2 Corinthians 12:5-7. C/R: Romans 5:3-5; 12:3; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7)

 Draws believers to _____.
 (2 Corinthians 12:8-10. C/R: Isaiah 43:1b-2; Romans 8:18, 28, Philippians 4:6-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:10)



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Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit <u>brookwoodchurch.org/adults</u>.

Conversation Starter

What's something that took you a long time to learn?

Begin your study with prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

Read <u>2 Corinthians 11:16-33</u>.

1. What trials did Paul suffer? What was his greatest burden (vs. 28)?

- 2. What are ways you see Paul's faith in this passage?
- 3. Think of a trial or hardship you faced. How did that affect your relationship with God?
- 4. How does your response to trials reveal your faith to others?

Read <u>2 Corinthians 12:1-10</u>.

- 5. Why did Paul boast about his weaknesses?
- 6. Share a time you experienced God's strength when you were weak.
- 7. When Paul discusses his *thorn in the flesh,* he implies that it's a gift from God. Why does the idea that God purposefully causes his children to suffer (or doesn't immediately remove suffering) create tension for us?

- 8. How can we view suffering in a way that honors God?
- 9. Can you think of a time when God humbled you through suffering? What did you learn about yourself?
- 10.God is sovereign over every aspect of our lives and has a purpose for suffering. Why is this difficult to grasp? What response does God want us to have in times of suffering?
- 11. What do you find most inspiring or challenging from this week's lesson?
- 12. What's one step you can take to strengthen your faith this week?

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is training for the soul. If you build these into your everyday life, you're sure to strengthen your relationship with God.

Take short breaks throughout each day to pray.

Memory Verse

Each time He said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. <u>2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)</u>

Daily Reading

 Day 1: Philippians 4:11-14
 Day 4: 1 Peter 2:19-21

 Day 2: 2 Timothy 3:10-12
 Day 5: Psalm 119:71

 Day 3: Matthew 5:10-12
 Day 5: Psalm 119:71

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, November 21, we'll conclude our series *Sufficiency in Christ*. To prepare read <u>2 Corinthians 12:11-13:14</u>.



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