



SMALL GROUPS |

CURRICULUM

SERMON TITLE	DATE
When Life Is Hard... His Grace Will Be Enough 2 Corinthians 12:7-10	November 08, 2015

Read Ps 139:10 “Where shall I go from your Spirit?

Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 *even there* your hand shall *lead me*, and your right hand shall *hold me*.”

Verse 10 has been our theme verse for our Suffering Series.

- A. Insert your suffering in place of “even there” in verse 10. The Lord says he will lead you and hold you even there. In what ways do you want to be led?
- B. In what ways do you want to be held?
- C. When is it most difficult to believe that God is continually leading and holding you perfectly?

The hope in this study is that as a result of your observations of suffering from 2 Corinthians 12 your current view of suffering would change to be more like the Lords!

What you need: Bible, Notebook, Pen or pencil or marker

3 Observations from 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

1. Observation: My Suffering Is An Appeal To Humility 7-8

- A. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
- B. In what ways could Paul have taken confidence in himself?
- C. What phrase is repeated twice in v7? How did God do this?
- D. Pastor Kevin mentioned how the drift to self-confidence can be subtle. Explain a time when you were struggling with something for a time until you finally realized you had not called out to the Lord for help?
- E. In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Pastor Kevin highlighted 4 ways to Pray In Our Suffering: Pray Persistently (Continually), Pray Pleadingly (literally begging), Pray Precisely (specifically), Pray Plainly (honest). Of the 4, which have you grown in most lately.

2. Observation: My Suffering Is A Call To Christ 9

- A. In verse 9 Paul cries out to God and gets a response, and says, “he said to me.” Summarize God’s response in your own words. What does this tell us about how God’s grace will be seen in our lives?
- B. How might pretending like everything is fine in your life actually quiet the testimony of God’s grace in your life?
- C. Pastor Kevin quoted David Powlson saying, “God’s voice speaks deeper than our hurts, brighter than what is dark, more enduring than what is lost, and truer than what happened.” In what ways could your life testify to this truth?

3. Observations: My Suffering Is An Invitation To Suffer 10

- A. In verse 10 Paul says he is content in a number of different situations, what are they?
- B. What is his reason for contentment? HINT: look at the end of verse 9 and of verse 10?
- C. **Have open their Bibles to Phil 4:11-13** where Paul talks about contentment again. “Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” How do we know that Paul’s contentment is not found in beating a rival sports team, or finding financial security, or in a promotion at work?
- D. Where must contentment come from? What is the caution then in trying to find solutions to our problems?
- E. Pastor Kevin told us to “Choose Prayer... Choose Peace!” How you interpret this statement is very important. In what ways could this be taken with a man-centered view? In what ways can we look at this with a gospel lens?

MEMORY VERSE :

2 Corinthians 12:10 “For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

ACCOUNTABILITY:

Men/Women:

- i) What times in your life have you been most certain of God’s presence? What stands out most?
- ii) In what area of your life, if you were honest, are you not inviting God’s presence?

