James #10

Find the comfort of God in spiritual testing.

Open in your bibles in 2Corinthians chapter one RF.

This letter to Corinth is an approach by the Apostle Paul to help many of these Bels who fell into carnality and are now coming back.

Many of these Christians have now learned a little doctrine from 1 Corinthians and actual there were also… possibly, two epistles which were lost and were not a part of the canon. Timothy, brought this letter along with other epistles, he is also going to be their pastor for a period of time.

/2Cor 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of **mercies and God of all comfort**,

“*God of all comfort”* — is singular, “*mercies*” is plural. Mercies means that there are many different ways in which God provides mercy under adversity.\

There are many ways in which God blesses us under suffering conditions as well as under conditions of prosperity.

Now the word “comfort” is in the singular, it indicates that comfort belongs to God. God is sharing mercies but comfort is a monopoly with God.

This comfort is related to our union with Christ and the power of GOD the HS – the Comforter.

The cold hard fact is no matter what you are under - momentum testing or discipline, there is only way to find comfort and God’s many mercies.

/The comfort is singular because the filling power of God the HS and the mind of Christ work in unison…as one powerful weapon, guidance and counsel during our temporal walk on earth. Being in the WORD without the filling power of God the HS breaks down the true power of the WORD. Just as being filled with accurate doctrine is nearly useless without your Christ-like nature.\

There is no human formula or human viewpoint that successfully, gets around the two power options in the CA.

[/2Co 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/1/4/s_1079004) who comforts us in all our affliction so that **we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction** with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

This is a call toward maturity, a call into leadership (others). You become part of a comfort process for others only as an example of a Spirit filled Bel, applying doctrine.\

[2Co 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/1/5/s_1079005) For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

Suffering under blessings and suffering under self-induced misery teaches us how much God truly loves us!

/Rev 3:19 ‘**Those whom I love** (*phileō*)***,* I rebuke and discipline;** therefore be zealous and repent. 20 ‘Behold, **I stand at the door and knock;** if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and **will dine with him**, and he with Me.

This is a call to fellowship – to open yourself up to a FATHER who loves you intimately.\

These scriptures (Rev 3) are not salvation scriptures they are fellowship scriptures.

I have taught that a half dozen times over the years.

Never get so far wrapped up in your emotions that you forget God disciplines those whom HE loves.

Sometimes we reap what we sow and fall into misery and all we need to do is turn it back around, adjust to the justice of God.

Then turn back toward a serious path toward maturity.

/Deu 8:5 “So you are to know in your heart that the **LORD your God was disciplining you** just as a **man disciplines his son.**

Prov 3:11 My son, **do not reject the discipline of the LORD** Or loathe His rebuke,

(2Sam 7:14, Prov 15:32, 1Cor 11:32… etc.) \

[2Co 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/1/6/s_1079006) But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer;

Written in the present tense – affliction happens from time to time.

Suffering is not only designed to bless you, suffering is also designed to bless others.

There is no such thing as unique suffering, unique temptations or testing, other than that of the person and work or TLJC.

Everything you may be suffering in today or tempted with tomorrow, some other Christian has gone through it!

REPEAT

[/2Co 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/1/7/s_1079007) and our hope for you is **firmly grounded** (*bebaios*), knowing that as **you are partners in our sufferings**, so also you are in our comfort.

The Apostle Paul knows as a matter of fact – assured with extreme confidence, that all Bels who are willing to stay the course, will be unified and press onward in any and all challenges.\

BEB-BY-US, a firm foundation, to be fully confident or stable in thought and action.

Keep in mind many at Corinth were coming back from carnality and the Apostle Paul was reminding them, to stay on the path – we all go through this, stand firm.

[2Co 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/1/8/s_1079008) For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers *and sisters,* of our affliction which occurred in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life.

/The Apostle Paul has no need to go into detail and compare his suffering alongside another. Many times, we suffer so that we can learn our hopeless condition and learn to depend upon the Lord. Ultimately all suffering in the Christian life is designed to teach us to depend upon the Lord or to orient to the grace plan of God.\

At this point the Apostle Paul had been through several adversities – one was that he had a level of prosperity and now he was struck again, not only physically but financially.

[2Co 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/1/9/s_1079009) Indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead,

[/2Co 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/1/10/s_1079010) **who rescued us from so great a *danger of* death**, and will rescue *us,* He on whom we have set our hope. And **He will yet deliver us**,

One of the greatest doctrines to fall back in difficulties is Eternal Security. You are forever in union with Christ.\

HE loves you - even on your worse day.

[2Co 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/1/11/s_1079011) *if* you also join in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons in our behalf for the favor *granted* to us through *the prayers of* many.

Prayer in unity with other Christians is a powerful tool.

/Personal disaster testing is designed as suffering for blessing for acceleration of momentum, or warning of cosmic involvement, in which case divine discipline becomes involved. Historical disaster is responsible for the collateral damage of many, a lot of people suffer unfairly when the leadership decides to go to war.\

Or when leaders are corrupt.

Historical disaster, collective disaster, or national disaster testing is related to the bad decisions of others in which you are involved by association.

There are at least six characteristics of disaster testing.

/Pain - physical or mental pain

Crime - you are the victim.

Persecution – genuine attacks, not paranoia.

Physical exposure – fatigue, hunger, homelessness…etc.

Loss - loved ones, property, success, money, etc.

Disease and handicaps.\

We saw job undergo all of this!

 /National disaster comes in several forms;

Violence, crime, terrorism, addiction.

Warfare.

Weather - heat, cold, storm, blizzards, hurricanes, tornadoes.

Cycles of divine discipline (which often lead to these problems as well) \

Any form of Disaster testing always tests our emotions.

This introduces Thought Testing, usually at the highest level.

/Thought testing occurs at all stages of our Christian-walk. Its direct application as a part of suffering for blessing in momentum testing. Thought testing occurs within all stages of spiritual growth. In stage one - spiritual self-esteem, providential preventative suffering provides some basic thought testing. \

All levels of growth bring forth unique challenges and tests;

/2Cor 12:10 Therefore I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in distresses, in persecutions, in difficulties, in behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.\

In stage two - spiritual autonomy, momentum testing includes thought testing. In spiritual maturity, evidence testing provides more pressure within thought testing.

Job was a great example of evidence testing.

/To pass thought testing at any stage of the Christian life, the Believer must have doctrine resident in the soul – the amount of doctrine determines the difficulty of how that Bel will handle it. Then the use of the filling of the Spirit at the time of thought testing to make the correct application of metabolized doctrine.\

This means the ability not to be distracted by human viewpoint or false teaching or to be misled by wrong priorities.

These are a continual distraction in the Christian way of life.

REPEAT

/Self-induced misery can arise under the law of volitional responsibility. The Christian is responsible for growing, learning and having the humility to sit under a prepared pastor-teacher. You will always have questions as you grow. If you’re patient, you’ll eventually receive the answers. There are no excuses after salvation for not growing spiritually.\

What you really are at any given time is what you think.

All of us are constantly changing in our thinking. This can mean instability in life – BD stabilizes us.

/*A thought can make or break you, depending on the nature of the thought. It’s either thinking derived from metabolized doctrine in your right lobe or thinking derived from the propaganda of Satan. One will improve you; one will break you apart.*

*Col. R.B. Thieme Jr.*\

Mental attitude is a priority of strength and growth – what type of mental attitude do you have?

Your ability to cope with life, your happiness in life, and your problem solving in life is based upon what you think.

Prayer is not a Christian problem-solving device. It is a request for clarity and strength in the time of adversity – it is not a cry for help at every turn.

REPEAT

There are times when we cry out for help that God will absolutely solve an issue for us – but it is never designed as a continual tool, in the area of problem solving, especially during testing.

/Rom 12:2 And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Spiritual growth is the key to most of life’s challenges, adversities and tests.\

/Rom 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.\

Having sound judgement begins when we organize our time, talent and treasure with a focus on the mind of Christ.

The organized and balanced life is very stabilizing as you begin to get laser focused on BD.

Let us close by touching on one form of testing that sometimes gets overlooked;

Prosperity Testing.

/There are two categories of prosperity testing;

Individual prosperity testing, in which some form of success (money, career, popularity) challenges the top priority of doctrine.

Collective prosperity testing, in which a city, state, nation, or group becomes very prosperous. The Believer sharing in that prosperity becomes distracted.\

Prosperity testing can lure a Christian away from the plan of God.

Collective prosperity testing is really a large portion of what happened here in America over the past 80 years.

The pursuit of pleasure excludes the priorities of integrity both in establishment and in the Christian life.

/Every Believer must pass the prosperity test before he can achieve spiritual maturity. It begins in how we handle the little blessings in life. Then realizing prosperity comes from GOD and does not bring happiness apart from a relationship with God. Prosperity is one of the most subtle distractions in life. Our capacity must always precede our prosperity.\