James #38

There has to be a calm assurance in faith-rest.

Open today in 2Corinthians chapter 11 RF.

Just a heads up - I usually take the week of the 4th of July off, as I do at Christmas as well.

It coincides with the company my wife works for, because they shut down and pay the employees for those weeks off.

I am going to be off between June 28th until July 5th.

I will announce this again during the week of June 23rd.

/Looking into the perseverance and maintaining the true endurance needed under pressure has been the core of this recent study. The faith-rest technique is key to this skill set and that begins as we always do, dealing first and foremost with the OSN;

1Jhn 1:9 **If we confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and **cleanse us from all unrighteousness**. (Lev 26:40, 1Ki 8:47, Neh 9:2, Psa 32:5, Psa 51:2, Prov 28:13, Dan 9:5, Jhn 13:10, Eph 4:24, Col 3:10, 2Cor 12:21, Rev 2:5, Rev 3:19, etc…etc.)\

The mechanics of what many of us call -Rebound is seen in 1John 1:9.

I gave an abundance of scriptures that speaks to the failure of a Bel after salvation and the ability to bounce back into the plan of GOD.

Please feel free to check on all of those scriptures, which will eventually lead you to more on the subject matter.

Just in case your legalistic friend wants to argue about forgiveness of sins after salvation.

Or even worse, those with deeper arrogance who claim you can lose your salvation – my suggestion is a deep study on Moses, David, Abraham, Jacob…Peter and Paul.

Once you confess it is forgiven, there is never a call for extended guilt and shame, weeping and begging – name and cite it, then isolate and forget it!

/Phl 3:13 Brothers *and sisters,* I do not regard myself as having taken hold of *it yet;* but **one thing *I do:* forgetting what *lies* behind** and **reaching forward** to what *lies* ahead,

Heb 12:15 **See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God**; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;\

You will never get to a place of comfort in faith-rest, if you are consistently caught in emotional chain sinning. Walking on eggs shells is NOT the Christian way of life!

 REPEAT

/The operation of the faith-rest technique is successful when the Believer places worries, anxieties, pressures, fears and problems in the Lord’s hands. There has to be a calm assurance in faith-rest, otherwise the Christian pulls back all the emotional garbage and steps back into the flesh.\

When you consistently apply faith-rest properly, it usually means you have arrived at the point where you are spiritually self-sustaining.

/Consistent faith-rest means the Bel is sustained by self, spiritually independent of others for counsel or any help. Dependent only on God’s grace plan and the doctrine in the soul. In other words, you live your own life, you make your decisions from positions of doctrinal strength. You have a library of core doctrines and the promises of GOD that are cemented deep in your soul structure.\

That is true faith-rest – it has to have a source deep within for this technique to have lasting momentum.

God is in in control in your life, you know He can handle the challenges you face. When you begin to walk in this manner, you become a very relaxed person because you are not afraid of anything.

/Once this spiritually, self-sustained Bel is filled with the Spirit, they maintain long periods in the New Nature. This is characterized by real inner happiness and peace (Divine Happiness). Living in the Word, while accumulating more doctrine is their lifestyle. The Word becomes a top-notch priority. This is the point that tests, pressure or adversity will not immediately throw you off course.\

This is the Christian walking with a steadfast endurance in life. A type of bullet proof faith unfolds within them.

They can actually get a strong sense that higher levels of maturity are just ahead in their journey.

Occupation with Christ is increasing for this type of Christian.

/Col 3:1 Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, **keep seeking the things *that are* above, where Christ is,** seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds on the things *that are* above**, not on the things that are on earth.\

Occupation with Christ is the trademark of a Bel heading into a super-grace maturity, beyond the average Believer.

/[Col 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/3/3/s_1110003) For you have died, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

 (Heb 12:1-3) \

Now in 2Corinthians chapter 11 we see a portion of the lesson, revolving around the issue of having the right pastor-teacher, the right spiritual leader.

It’s hard to believe but many at Corinth rejected the Apostle Paul, they criticized him.

The fact is many Christians reject the accuracy of the WORD, they seek out teachers who tickle their fancy – it happened to the Apostle Paul more than once. Which, means many so-called Christians may not even be under their right pastor-teacher today!

 REPEAT

Right from the early part of this chapter Paul was dealing with the issue of disrespect and having little or no support from this congregation…who by the way, were pretty well off financially.

He actually mentions he had to basically rob other congregations to keep coming back to Corinth – read the first 8 verses and you will see what he was dealing with.

It meant those less fortunate flipped the bill for the wealthy Corinthian congregation.

Shortly after this historic point the Apostle Paul no longer worked as a tent-maker, he would be in full time ministry.

2Cor 11:18 Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also.

This is laced with divine sarcasm.

Several Gnostic teachers and Judaizers had been getting support from many of the congregation at Corinth.

[2Co 11:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/19/s_1089019) For you, being *so* wise, tolerate the foolish gladly.

/[2Co 11:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/20/s_1089020) For **you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you**, if anyone devours you, **if anyone takes *advantage of* you**, if anyone exalts himself, if anyone hits you in the face.

***IF*** is written in the first-class condition repeatedly, it was because this was factual. They were absorbing false doctrines, being manipulated spiritually and financially.\

Most of this is written in a Greek present tense - these false teachers kept plundering and infecting these foolish Corinthians.

This is a great lesson on dealing with people testing and having the steadfast endurance to stand strong no matter what happens.

/This was a congregation that the Apostle Paul built from the ground up. He was their leader and teacher, yet they blatantly disrespected him. Testing and pressure or adversity, often comes from our own inner circle, especially those we have sacrificed for or assisted along the way. Those closest to us, those we have opened ourselves up to can bring incredible testing and pressure upon us.\

Satan is well aware of who to use to get to you – this is why there is always a warning for family, friends and especially married Christians; Satan will use those closest to us to bring misery and confusion into our walk.

Satan used the woman in the garden to get to the man.

 REPEAT

These Corinthians had rejected the Apostle Paul and welcomed these rogue teachers into their midst.

They were impressed by their eloquent speaking skills and the fact that some, were well known Hebrew scholars connected to the Sanhedrin.

/[2Co 11:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/21/s_1089021) **To *my* shame** (*atimia*) I *must* say that **we have been weak** *by comparison.*But in whatever respect anyone else is bold - I am speaking in foolishness—**I too am bold**.

Though you dishonor and attempt to humiliate me, as I am regarded as inefficient and contemptible. While the false teachers are currently the focus of your attention and pseudo-love.\

AH-TO-ME-AH, is Greek noun used to speak about dishonor, it was used for a definition of someone who should be disgraced in public.

/The Apostle Paul has dialed up the divine sarcasm and shifted into a strong rebuke. The gloves are now off, he tells them; ‘*let me indulge into your nonsense and foolishness and let us really talk about courage and inner strength*.’ These teachers had human respect and cosmic system, high accolades and stood in front of you so boldly, now let’s take a look at my accolades! \

[2Co 11:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/22/s_1089022) Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.

This shows us many of the rogue teachers back then, were members of the Sanhedrin.

Which I believe there is strong evidence the counterfeit members of the Sanhedrin morphed themselves right in with the Gnostics.

There were already connections there with certain members of the Magi.

/[2Co 11:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/23/s_1089023) **Are they servants of Christ**?—I am speaking as if insane—I more so; in **far more labors**, in far more **imprisonments, beaten times** without number, **often in *danger of* death**.

The Apostle Paul knew some of these counterfeit teachers, none were chosen by Christ nor did they teach Christ accurately. So now he will indulge into some more foolishness, because it takes smash mouth teaching to wake up arrogance! \

What the Apostle Paul begins to embark on is not from the flesh…contrary to some false teaching, this is not a brag-omony.

There are times to really dig in your heels and level some people with the truth, and it can be done while filled by God the HS. This is a master class;

[2Co 11:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/24/s_1089024) Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes.*

[2Co 11:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/25/s_1089025) Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent *adrift* at sea.

By the way, the time the Apostle Paul was stoned to the brink of death, he was taken up, in spirit, into the 3rd heaven. Where he was taught deep principles on mystery doctrine - by TLJC HIMSELF!

/The mature Believer is able to withstand incredible tests, pressures and adversity without peeling away from the LORD. Only a few incidents upon this list of the Apostle Paul were self-induced misery or discipline. The majority of these FACTUAL events, occurred because the Kingdom of Darkness was allowed access to test or torment the Apostle Paul.\

The next time you have a *WOE IS ME*, moment, the next time you think - *Satan is really attacking me beyond compare*…read this chapter.

[2Co 11:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/26/s_1089026) *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers;

There is not a lie or half-truth written in any of it – he is filled and driven by GOD the HS, accurately rebuking a group of arrogant, backsliding Christians.

[2Co 11:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/27/s_1089027) *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

/2Co 11:28 Apart from *such* external things, **there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches**.

The burden of spiritual authority, studying and teaching, on top of working on a completed canon of scripture. There was also the pressure of his love and genuine concern for all the fledgling churches.\

Th Apostle Paul didn’t want to go this route.

/The Apostle Paul knew many false teachers were using sympathy, and manipulation to infiltrate the minds and pockets of the congregations. Emotional teaching, eloquent speech was coupled with their reputations of scholarly accreditation. This was how they infiltrated many early churches. This is also how in the year of our LORD 2025, many Christians are sitting under false teaching, rejecting the ordained men of God.\

Listing all these painful, yet factual events was needed.

While doing so in a harsh fashion was also needed.

[2Co 11:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/29/s_1089029) Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

/There is a challenge and loneliness, as well as deep concern that only a true pastor-teacher can understand. Ministry leadership in any capacity is a challenge; the flesh is always a challenge just as it is for the congregation. The fact is authority brings in greater weight, pressure and tests – especially for spiritual leadership. \

[2Co 11:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/30/s_1089030) If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness.

***IF*** again is a first-class condition, everything Paul is preaching upon is a fact!

They have backed him in a corner and now he had to appear as if he were bragging and yet he was not! He spoke pure truth in a rebuke.

He is saying all these times I just listed not only happened exactly as I just told you.

But I was in a position of complete weakness and giving it all over to the LORD.

/The Apostle Paul never lost any real momentum with GOD during all these tests, pressure or adversities. He always fell back upon Bible Doctrine and his relationship with Christ. He stayed steadfast and waited upon God for the exit strategy – he applied FAITH REST. He brings attention to God’s grace plan, not self-pity or human solutions, like most of the false teachers promoted.\

[2Co 11:31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/31/s_1089031) The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

[2Co 11:32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/32/s_1089032) In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me,

[2Co 11:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/11/33/s_1089033) and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and *so* escaped his hands.