

When Times Are Tough Is God Enough?

II Corinthians 1:3-11

January 8, 2012

Growth Group Questions

1. How many times do you think Paul brings up the topic of “the suffering/comfort we experience is not merely for our benefit, but for the benefit of others” in II Corinthians 1: 3-11? Why do you think Paul would write this so many times?
2. Do you have a testimony of suffering/trials/troubles that you have not shared with others? What keeps you from doing so?
3. What is the difference between ‘sharing’ and ‘gossiping’?
4. If you have been through a time of suffering, out of that experience, what praises can you now offer to God?
5. Have you experienced the truth of Genesis 50:20? Share your experience with your group. [cf. Romans 8:28]
6. Have you experienced the truth that Jesus mentioned in Luke 7:47? Yourself? From others?
7. What do you think?...can we actually suffer to the point that God’s comfort is no longer sufficient? Back your answer with Scripture. Why then do we sometimes feel like God is offering no comfort at all?
8. Can we be tempted/tried to the point that the temptation is irresistible? [cf. I Cor. 10:13]. Which are we more prone to choose, humanly speaking, in times of tempting trials?... “escapes” or “excuses”?
9. How might suffering/trials/troubles be beneficial?
10. What might motivate you to pray the truth of Philippians 3:10?
11. Read II Corinthians 1:11. Can you see how important our prayers are for those who are suffering? Do you know anyone going through tough times now? Take time as a group pray for them. [cf. Jam. 5:16; Rom. 15:30; Eph. 6:18-19; Col. 4:3; II Thess. 3:1; Phil. 1:19; I Thess. 5:25]



Dr. Larry G. Shelton • • • • • Contemporary Service

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