SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

HOW TO GET THROUGH WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH WEEK 2

OPENING & PRAYER:

Trouble is part of life on this planet, not proof that someone has stopped loving God or following him. Paul endured beatings, shipwrecks, hunger, sleepless nights, and danger, yet his concern for the churches stayed in place. Trouble did not get to decide what mattered most. Jesus promised tribulation, but he also declared that he had overcome the world. Faith keeps its focus there.

"Lord, thank You for always being there for us. Please guide us as we study Your word and how it helps us to get through those tough times. We thank You for Your love for us and help. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. **2 Corinthians 11:23b-24**

Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; **2 Corinthians 11:25-26**

in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. **2 Corinthians 11:27-28**

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. **2 Corinthians 1:3-5 NLT**

Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us. **2 Corinthians 1:6-7 NLT**

We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. **2 Corinthians 1:8-9 NLT**

And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us. And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety. **2 Corinthians 1:10-11 NLT**

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For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. **2 Timothy 1:7**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. **Proverbs 3:5-7**

It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. **Proverbs 3:8-10**

For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. **2 Corinthians 4:5**

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. **2 Corinthians 4:7**

And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us. **2 Corinthians 1:10 NLT**

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit. **Proverbs 18:21**

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. **Romans 10:17**

And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety**. 2 Corinthians 1:11 NLT**

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. **Galatians 6:2**

But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! **Galatians 5:15**

Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. **Romans 16:17**

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. **Romans 15:4**

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. **2 Corinthians 1:20**

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. **2 Corinthians 4:17–18**

GO DEEPER:

God is the merciful Father and the source of all comfort. Praise rearranges a believer's focus, and receiving God's mercy makes room for help that human effort cannot supply. That comfort also reaches beyond the person receiving it. Someone who has been through brokenness can minister with compassion to someone still going through it. What looks like a disqualification can become a qualifier for helping others.

Paul's trouble in Asia pushed him beyond his ability to endure, but it also exposed the limits of relying on himself. Confidence belongs in the God who raises the dead. Believers are earthen vessels, cracked pots with gaps that only God can fill. Dependence on God does not mean staying home from work or refusing responsibility. The balance is plain: believers do their best and trust God with the rest.

Confidence in God also shapes what comes out of the mouth. Paul remembered that God had rescued him and declared that God would rescue him again. Words can feed faith or keep feeding fear, confusion, and doubt. The church is called to pray for one another and bear burdens, not bite and devour through gossip dressed up as concern.

God's promises give patience, comfort, and hope. Eternity puts present trouble in its proper place: affliction lasts a moment beside the eternal weight of glory. Christ offers more than help with the immediate problem. Salvation prepares a person for eternity, and that remains the greater need.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Received Comfort Becomes Help For Others. God's comfort is not meant to stop with the person who receives it. Someone who has walked through brokenness can recognize another person's pain with a compassion that polished appearances cannot provide. Honest acknowledgment of past struggles can open a door for ministry rather than close it. **[06:52]**

2. God Fills What Human Effort Cannot. Cracked pots still carry treasure because the power belongs to God, not the vessel. Trust does not excuse laziness or remove the responsibility to give a genuine best effort. It allows believers to stop treating every remaining gap as something they must somehow fill themselves. **[20:06]**

3. Confidence In God Shapes Daily Speech. Paul joined the memory of God's past rescue to confidence in God's continued help. Words matter because repeated declarations can strengthen faith or keep feeding fear and doubt. Speaking God's promises gives the heart something firmer to hold than the trouble immediately in view. **[22:54]**

4. Prayer Carries Burdens Without Spreading Gossip. Bearing another person's burden is different from circulating that person's failures. A prayer request can become biting and devouring when concern becomes an excuse to tell the story. Genuine help lifts the person before God instead of tearing down the marriage, family, or church that needs strengthening. **[31:48]**

5. Eternity Gives Present Trouble Its Proportion. Paul calls affliction momentary beside the far greater, eternal weight of glory. That perspective does not require pretending that trouble feels easy; it refuses to treat visible circumstances as the whole story. Christ's help reaches beyond fixing a present problem to preparing a person for eternity. **[38:05]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1.What everyday example illustrates the difference between depending on God and neglecting personal responsibility? How does that connect with Proverbs 3:5–6? **[20:20]**

2.How can a believer take work, parenting, or other responsibilities seriously without treating personal effort as the ultimate source of security? Consider Proverbs 3:5–6 and 2 Corinthians 4:7. **[21:01]**

3. Praise can shift your focus without denying your pain. When trouble fills your thoughts, what truth about God could you thank him for? What might help you make room for praise this week? **[07:22]**

4. Where are you feeling pressure to hold everything together yourself—at work, at home, or in a relationship? What responsibility is yours to carry, and what outcome do you need to entrust to God? **[21:01]**

5. What present concern has been taking up most of your attention? How might remembering eternity change one choice you make this week, while still allowing you to take that concern seriously? **[38:15]**

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. We will continue to lean on Your Word as we grow to bring people to know you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."