

COMING BACK STRONGER FROM TRAGEDY

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

- **The Lord tells us we will experience trials and tragedy in life.**
- Jesus – *"In this world you will have trouble."* (John 16:33)
- **The Lord also tells us that He will bring us through our trials and tragedies.**
- Paul - *"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. 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 1:8-10)
- **To overcome life's trials and tragedies we must remember who God is to us and what He is able to do for and through us.**

Overcoming Tragedy Requires:

REMEMBERING WHO GOD IS <u>TO</u> <u>US</u>

- *"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort."* (2 Corinthians 1:3)
- **Our God is the *God of Incarnation* -** *"the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"*
    - *"When the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman . . . to buy freedom for us who were slaves "* (Galatians 4:4-5)
    - **We have a God who is involved with and concerned with His creation, and who sent His Son into our world to rescue us.**
- **Our God is the *God of Salvation* -** *"God is our merciful Father"*
    - **God in His mercy has offered to us His great salvation.**
    - *"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy."* (Titus 3:4-5)
- **Our God is the *God of Consolation* -** *"the source of <u>all</u> comfort"*

- **Only the Lord can bring us supernatural comfort when we are experiencing great tragedy (John 14:25-27).**

Overcoming Tragedy Requires:

RECOGNIZING WHAT GOD DOES <u>FOR</u> <u>US</u>

- ***What has God done for us in times past, especially through life's trials?***
- **The Lord *Comforts us* in our trials.**
  - *"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 1:4-5)
  - **The Lord is able to give us encouragement and strength even in the midst of our tragedies and trials.**
  - **The Lord comforts us through: 1) the Scriptures (Romans 15:4; Psalm 37, 91, 103), 2) His Spirit (John 14:16, 15:26), and 3) Other Saints (2 Corinthians 7:6-7, Matthew 25:31-46).**
- **The Lord *Strengthens us* through our trials.**
  - *"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. 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 1:6-9)
  - **In the midst of our trials and tragedies we learn how to trust in the Lord, believing He will help us and work out His plans in our lives.**
  - *"When troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. Let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing."* (James 1:2-4)
  - "God has a purpose behind every problem – and He uses circumstances to develop our character!" - Rick Warren
- **The Lord *Delivers us* from our trials.**
  - *"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)

- **We all should have testimonies of how God has helped us, provided for us and delivered us in the past; which remind us we can trust Him in the future.**
- *"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them."* (Romans 8:28)

Overcoming Tragedy Requires:

REALIZING WHAT GOD WANTS TO DO <u>THROUGH</u> <u>US</u>

- **God allows us to go through trials and tragedies to strengthen us, but He also allows us to go through so we can be better equipped to help others.**
- *"He (God) 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. 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."* (2 Corinthians 1:4-6)
- **Experiencing trials and tragedies helps us to *Comprehend* others' needs.**
  - **As a result of going through personal trials and tragedies we should now be able to better identify with the trials and tragedies of others.**
- **Experiencing trials and tragedies helps us to *Care* for others' needs. As a result of going through personal trials and tragedies we should now be more involved in assisting others through their trials and tragedies.**
  - *"God will not forget how hard you have worked for Him and how you have shown your love to Him by caring for other Christians."* (Hebrews 6:10)
- **Our "tragedies" will be turned to "triumphs" as Jesus' people rise up to be the body and ministering arms of Jesus.**

- **We have learned valuable lessons from our spiritual, family, educational, vocational, ministry, and painful experiences.**
- "God never wastes a hurt." - Rick Warren
- **The experiences that we have resented or regretted most in life are the experiences God wants to use to help and minister to others.**
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message, and what am I going to do about it?***