

# PAIN

WHERE IS GOD IN MY

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Part 4 – The Power of Weakness  
2 Corinthians 12:7-10

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I. GOD DESIGNS FOR SOME ADVERSITIES WE FACE TO BE **BEYOND OUR ABILITY** TO HANDLE WITHOUT HIM.

A. Why do adversities come into our lives?

1. Some adversities come because of our own **wrong choices**.
2. Some adversities come because of **others' choices** and we suffer as innocent bystanders.
3. Some adversities come **just because** they come.

*John 9:2-3 "His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"<sup>3</sup> "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life."*

4. Some adversities come to **protect** us.

**2 Corinthians 12:7** “To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.”

I wonder how many times problems and difficulties which seem to come out of nowhere and seem to have no rhyme or reason to us are designed to **protect** us from something worse that we cannot see and cannot know about right now.

B. Most smaller adversities are meant to be overcome with the resources God has **already** given to us.

C. Sometimes, God allows adversities that **cannot be met** with our human resources.

## II. WHEN WE COME TO THE END OF OUR OWN STRENGTH, GOD IS ABLE TO SUPPLY US WITH HIS **STRENGTH**. (2 Corinthians 12:8-9)

A. **2 Corinthians 12:8-9** “Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it (the thorn in the flesh) away from me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

1. Grace means the **inner resources** God freely gives to us to live a victorious life.

2. Sufficient means, “more than enough to meet your need.”

3. “When you face hardships that are overwhelming, the power and strength I will give to you will be more than you need to meet the challenge. My power will **bridge the gap** of your weakness completely.” (God)

B. **2 Corinthians 12:9** “My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness.” (NLT)

**1 Corinthians 1:27, 29** “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong... <sup>29</sup> that no man should boast before God.”

C. The goal God has when we face those overwhelming adversities in our life is to cause us to rely on **His** strength instead of on our own.

## III. HOW DO WE OBTAIN THE POWER OF GOD TO HANDLE THE OVERWHELMING ADVERSITIES OF OUR LIFE?

A. Stop **negatively** contributing to the problem.

*Proverbs 28:13 “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”*

B. Spend time at the beginning of every day **being still** before God.

*Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God;”*

1. Be reminded of who God **really** is.
2. Be reminded of your place in His family.
3. Be reminded of His promises to you.
4. Be reminded of your covenant with Him.

C. Ask the Lord to help you and begin looking for direction from Him out of **His Word**.

*Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”*

D. **Wait** on God.

1. *Psalm 33:18, 20-21 “But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,...<sup>20</sup> We **wait** in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. <sup>21</sup> In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.”*
2. *Psalm 130:5 “I **wait** for the LORD, my soul **waits**, and in his word I put my hope.”*
3. *Proverbs 20:22 “Do not say, “I’ll pay you back for this wrong!” **Wait** for the LORD, and he will deliver you.”*
4. *Isaiah 40:31 “But they that **wait** upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”*

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**Notes:**

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