



Power *in* weakness

2 CORINTHIANS

Boasting In Our Suffering

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

I repeat, let no one think me foolish. But even if you do, accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. What I am saying with this boastful confidence, I say not as the Lord would but as a fool. Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast. For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves!

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that.

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers;




2 Corinthians 11:16-33

in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?




2 Corinthians 11:16-33

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.



If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. (v.30)

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1. The call to boast in our suffering
 2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
 3. The practice of boasting in our suffering

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1. The call to boast in our suffering

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"Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips."

- Proverbs 27:2

1. The call to boast in our suffering

Augustus Caesar's
Res Gestae Divi Augusti



1. The call to boast in our suffering

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"My Grace is sufficient for you, for my Power is Made Perfect in Weakness."
- 2 Corinthians 12:9

1. The call to boast in our suffering

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"The Bible is never abstract, theoretical or impersonal about suffering. It's real, tangible, personal, and specific. We see that in our text. The Bible never minimizes the harsh experiences of our terribly broken world, and in so doing, the Bible forces us out of our denial and toward humble honesty..."

1. The call to boast in our suffering

...Scripture never looks down on the sufferer... [but rather] presents to the sufferer a God who understands, who cares... and who promises one day to end all suffering of any kind once and for all!"

- Paul David Tripp, *Suffering*




1. The call to boast in our suffering



1. The call to boast in our suffering

"But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.'" - Acts 9:15-16




2. The hope as we boast in our suffering




2. The hope as we boast in our suffering

- A. Where our hope DOES NOT come from
- B. WHO our hope comes from




2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
A. Where our hope DOES NOT come from

The Hope that exists in suffering does not come as a result of looking to and boasting in yourself.




2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
A. Where our hope DOES NOT come from


"What I am saying with this boastful confidence, I say not as the Lord would but as a fool. Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast." (v.17-18)

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2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
A. Where our hope DOES NOT come from


"Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman..." (v.22-23)

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2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
A. Where our hope DOES NOT come from


One false sense of hope we turn to in suffering is our Pride. Not arrogance, but self reliance.

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2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
A. Where our hope DOES NOT come from


"[Suffering] simply demonstrates what has been true all along: we are completely dependent on God for life and breath and everything else."
- Paul David Tripp, *Suffering*

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2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
B. WHO our hope comes from


"The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever..." (v.31)

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2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
B. WHO our hope comes from

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief... he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows... he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities..."


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2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
B. WHO our hope comes from

"...upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed... and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."
- Isaiah 53:3-6



2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
B. WHO our hope comes from


- i. God's Sovereignty
- ii. God's Presence



2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
B. WHO our hope comes from
i. God's Sovereignty


"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

- Romans 8:28



2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
B. WHO our hope comes from


- ii. God's presence



2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
B. WHO our hope comes from
ii. God's presence

"He [God] made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him..."

- Acts 17:26-27




2. The hope as we boast in our suffering
B. WHO our hope comes from


The suffering that brings about hardship and is out of our control, is under the control of the one who is near!



3. The practice of boasting in our suffering




3. The practice of boasting in our suffering
A. Shift our focus from the temporary to the eternal




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A. Shift our focus from the temporary to the eternal

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth... your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

- Colossians 3:2-3



3. The practice of boasting in our suffering
B. Shift your focus from your circumstances to loving and caring for others



3. The practice of boasting in our suffering
B. Shift your focus from your circumstances to loving and caring for others

And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.



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