

# DIVINE COMFORT

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"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."  
(2 Corinthians 1:3)

Four purposes for suffering . . .

## I. So we can experience God's \_\_\_\_\_.

A. God \_\_\_\_\_ us in our suffering.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4a** — "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles . . ."

B. God \_\_\_\_\_ to us in our suffering.

**2 Corinthians 1:5** — "For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows." (see **Hebrews 2:18; Hebrews 4:15-16**)

## II. So we can help others who \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Corinthians 1:4-5** — "[The God of all comfort,] who comforts us in all our troubles, **so that** we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows."

A. We can only give what we have \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Your suffering is not in \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Corinthians 1:6-7** — "If we are distressed, it is for **your comfort** and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for **your comfort**, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings **we suffer**. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort."

## III. So we will not rely on \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Corinthians 1:8-9** — "We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. **But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.**"

A. Paul never says suffering is \_\_\_\_\_. (see **Romans 8:28**)

B. Relying only on \_\_\_\_\_ is a foolish mistake!

**Proverbs 3:5-7; 28:26 NKJV** — "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool."

## IV. So we can depend on the \_\_\_\_\_.

A. We need a \_\_\_\_\_ to help in our suffering!

**2 Corinthians 1:10-11** — "He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many."