

Out of the Wilderness of Suffering and Despair  
Into the Promise of GRACE and POWER  
2 Corinthians 12:9

Context: We find our promise today, in a letter Paul wrote out of concern for the souls of the believers in Corinth (11:3) and the reluctant need to defend his apostleship in light of a smear campaign being carried out by false apostles to discredit him.

Promise: MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS! (2 Cor. 12:9)

Three lessons related to suffering that can help move us out of the wilderness of despair into the promise of GRACE and POWER.

**Lesson #1 – Being saved does not give us \_\_\_\_\_ from all suffering and pain in this life (vs. 7)**

- a. Suffering is a reality of living in a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ world  
(Rom. 5:12; 8:22)
- b. Suffering is a reality of \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.  
"For Christ's sake..." (2 Cor. 4:8-11 "for Jesus sake." 1 Peter 4:12-16 "because of the name of Christ." Acts 9:16 "for my name." John 15:18-21 "because of my name." John 16:33)

*"Scripture works to prepare us, not so we would live in fear, but so we will be ready for the things we will all face" (Paul Tripp)*

Question: So how does being saved help us in the midst of suffering?

**Lesson #2 – Being saved gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ to see suffering from a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 7)**

- a. It helps us to see that suffering has \_\_\_\_\_  
(James 1:2-4; 2 Cor. 1:3-9; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:5)
- b. It helps us to see that suffering is God \_\_\_\_\_ and not just \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ps. 24:1, 1 Peter 4:19)

*"Suffering clarifies who is in control." (Paul Tripp)*

**Lesson #3 – Being saved gives us access to the \_\_\_\_\_ needed to \_\_\_\_\_ suffering  
and to be a witness (vs. 8-10)**

- a. It allows us to come boldly before the throne of \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 4:14-16)
- b. It allows us to experience the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ in our  
weaknesses (2 Cor. 4:7)

*"It is easy to believe in grace for the past and the future, but to rest in it for the immediate necessity is true faith..." (Charles Spurgeon)*