Wilderness/Promise #17 Pastor Kelvin Kauffeldt

 February 27 2022

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 immunity from all suffering and pain in this life (vs. 7)**

1. Suffering is a reality of living in a broken and fallen world (Rom. 5:12; 8:22).
2. Suffering is a reality of living as a disciple 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 ability to see suffering from a different perspective (vs. 7)**

1. It helps us to see that suffering has purpose (James 1:2-4; 2 Cor. 1:3-9; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:5)
2. It helps us to see that suffering is God ordained and not just random.

(Ps. 24:1, 1 Peter 4:19)

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

**Lesson #3 – Being saved gives us access to the strength needed to endure suffering and to be a**

 **witness (vs. 8-10)**

1. It allows us to come boldly before the throne of grace (Heb. 4:14-16)
2. It allows us to experience the grace and power 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)*