Receiving things the right way

2 Cor. 12:1-19

No matter what happens to us, we’re to be thankful for trials, tribulations, temptations, and troubles.

Misunderstanding – when you get saved your problems are over. That is wrong.

Many times it’s just the opposite.

What is the purpose for the thorn?

God has his reasons why He does what He does.

The cry of man, “Why is this happening to me?”

You’re going to have Tribulation – 2 Cor. 1:1-3, 7

**I. TO CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD** (v. 8)

1. God wants to hear from you.

 **ILL.** Getting blessings and forgetting about God.

 **ILL.** Israel complained that they wanted something else for food.

2. The most important thing other than your salvation is your personal fellowship with the Lord.

 i. Sometimes that can be a lonely thing. God wants your attention.

 ii. Do not let modern technology and social media control you.

3. Your walk is a daily thing. You ought to listen to His sweet voice.

 He was to hear from you, EVERYDAY!

 **ILL.** Martyrs that had to deal with the “thorn” of death

 Put in sack with snakes.

 Thrown

**II. TO KEEP YOU FROM PERSONAL EXALTATION**

1. Because God honors humility (vss. 7, 8, 11)

2. Grace is distributed when he seen humility (1 Pet. 5:6, 7)

 **ILL.** David had many things to learn in his own life to be able to minister grace.

 How many times he cried in Psalms.

 **ILL.** Norman Carrillo – would get a pain in his heart every time he started to begin to think about selling drugs again.

**III. TO KNOW OF GOD’S POWER** (v. 9)

Paul was in prison when he wrote 2 Tim. 1:7

 **ILL.** Testimonies of so many that say, “I’ve been blessed” while at the same time bearing an infirmity.

 **ILL.** I’ve been blessed with the opportunity…”

 **ILL.** “Thank God I’ve been blessed with being in jail. My whole life is changed.”

 **ILL.** Nick, “I’ve been blessed to have been born this way.”

 **ILL.** Blessing that do not depend upon how much money you’ve got.

Paul –

1 Tim. 6:7 Ибо мы ничего не принесли в этот мир, и определенно ничего не можем вынести.

1 Tim. 6:8 И имея пропитание и одежду, будем довольны тем.

 ILL. Paul had probably lost all of his hair, he probably couldn’t see very well, he was beat up many times, etc.

 **ILL.** Paul said the power of God comes with the **“fellowship of his suffering…”**

 “The price is pain.”

 “Things God can’t teach you out of a book.”

1. FOR PERFECTION of God’s strength IN YOUR WALK WITH GOD (vss. 9, 10).

**IV. IT PRODUCES A DIVINE COMMITMENT TO GOD’S GRACE** (v. 9)

1. Grace that saves (Eph. 2:8, 9)

2. Grace that leads.

3. Grace that teaches (Tim. 2:11)

 **ILL.** *Noah* found grace (Gen. 6:8)

 **ILL.** *Joseph* was gracious toward those that sold him (Gen. 47:25).

**V. PRODUCES A SPIRIT OF FORGIVENESS** (v. 13).

1. To remove a critical spirit.

 **ILL.** Welcome!

 ILL. A preacher had to stop somebody in church one day, “Do you know what? Someday God is going to slap the slop right out of your mouth.”

2. To remove your gossip!

 **ILL.** Little people talk about people all the time.

 Because they are not content; they are jealous, and have ill motives for living.

 **ILL.** A brother I went to school with would always complain about certain people.

 **ILL.** Preacher walked into the hospital room to visit a patient. The first words from the patient were “Where have you been preacher?”

 “I just heard about it that you were here. I came to visit.”

 **ILL.** How one bad apple can ruin many apples.

3. The thorn is NECESSARY to help you to be quiet when you should be.

 **ILL.** Those that don’t do something many times are the ones telling you what to do, how to do it. When to do it. CONTROL!

**VI. CREATES A COMPASSION FOR OTHERS** (v. 14, 15)

 **ILL.** When the world sucks up compassion from the hearts of people the daughter of Pharaoh would show compassion.

Exod. 1:15 ¶ И сказал царь египетский еврейским повитухам, из которых имя одной было Шифра, а имя другой Пуа:

1:16 И сказал он, Когда вы будете исполнять обязанность повитухи по отношению к еврейским женщинам, и смотреть их на креслах; если это сын, то убьете его: но если это дочь, то будет жить она.

Exod. 2:6 И когда открыла, увидела младенца: и, вот, дитя плакало. И она **сжалилась** над ним, и сказала, Это одно из еврейских детей.

 **ILL.** Jesus didn’t live just for his family. He lived for others besides his family.

 Paul didn’t live for his family. He lived for Jesus.

1. Keep your eyes on the Lord. He’s the main thing.

 **ILL.** Church for only a few hours a week.

 It ought to be a time to help and be a blessing to one another.

2. Despite their lack of love, you’re to love.

 **ILL.** READ illustration about loving others.

**VII. TO GET ALONG WITH OTHERS** (v. 19)

1. If you can’t say something *edifying* don’t say it.

 “Everything I’m doing it’s for you!” He didn’t have to! “It’s just for you!”

 “OTHERS!”

Ладить relationships!

Do away with discord (Eph. 4:29-32).

 **ILL.** Nit-picking things that don’t amount to ANYTHING

 придирки или претензии по мелочам;

 **ILL.** Have you really made a list of all the nit-picking things that you worry about.

**VIII. IT WILL REMOVE SIN OUT OF YOUR LIFE** (v. 20)

1. That’s what the Lord wants.

 “Sin always complicates life.”

 **ILL.** When you are sick, you don’t think about all the stupid stuff.

1 Pet. 5:10

Conclusion

It’s all about turning the “burden” into a blessing.”

Turning bad into good.

 **ILL.** Joseph received it with the right spirit **–**

2. To help you to REPENT! (v. 21)

 **ILL.** Prodigal son finally came to himself. He found out that he was ‘sick.’

Why don’t you come home!

Gen. 50:20 Но что до вас, вы замышляли против меня зло; **но Бог предназначил это к добру, чтобы совершить, как оно и есть сегодня,** и сохранить в живых множество народа.

Invitation

You need God. Come back to Bethel.

Saved

How do you receive the thorn?

Receive it with grace. Thank God for it.

Unsaved

1. God has one reason why He allows trouble, a thorn in your life – to get your attention.

 **ILL.** A health problem, storm, financial problem, social problem (jail) etc.