January 9, 2022

Worship Service

Pastor Chris Regas

WeAreLifeBridge.com

**The God of All Comfort**

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

**What Should You Do When Life Is Hard and…**

*You don’t know what to do? You don’t know what God is doing?*

*And you’re not even sure God knows what He is doing?*

God always has a **PURPOSE** for our suffering, but we must learn

the lessons He is trying to teach us.

**Lessons to Learn in the School of Suffering**

**1. Let God COMFORT You in Your Suffering.** (vv. 3-4a)

***Three Reasons***

* He is the Father of **MERCIES**.
* He is the God of **ALL COMFORT**.
* He is able to comfort us in **ALL** our troubles.

**2. Look Forward to Comforting OTHERS.** (v. 4)

***Three Reminders***

* You can’t pass on what you haven’t **RECEIVED**.
* You don’t have to go through the **SAME** suffering.
* You comfort others in **SIMILAR** (but not identical) ways.

**3. Learn to PERSEVERE Like Christ in *both* Suffering *and* Comforting.** (vv. 5-7)

***Three Realities***

* Persevere in **YOUR OWN** suffering like Christ did for us.
* Persevere in comforting **OTHERS** like Christ does us.
* Persevering bears the fruit of **ASSURANCE**.

**4. Lean on God’s POWER Not Your Own.** (vv. 8-10)

***Three Realizations***

* God allows us to experience suffering **BEYOND** our ability to endure.
* God is deepening our hope in His **RESURRECTION** power.
* God wants us to learn to **ALWAYS** lean on Him.

**5. Leverage the PRAYERS of God’s People.** (v. 11a)

**6. Lift Up GOD’S GLORY from Beginning to End.** (v. 11b)

**7. Live for CHRIST in the Crucible of Suffering.**

“*Blessed be the God and* ***Father of******our Lord Jesus Christ****…For just as* ***the sufferings of Christ*** *are ours in abundance, so also* ***our comfort is abundant******through Christ****.”*

2Corinthians 1:3-5

***How Do We Learn These Lessons in the School of Suffering?***

* It’s a ***practical process*** ***learned by experience*** in the crucible of suffering.
* It’s a ***supernatural process*** ***taught by the God of all comfort*** through the person of His Son, the power of His Spirit, and the presence of His people.

Be **TEACHABLE**. | Be **TRUSTING**. | Be **THANKFUL**.

*God always has a compassionate purpose in our suffering that will comfort us and*

*comfort others, but we must learn the lessons He is trying to teach us through our suffering.*