

**January 9, 2022**  
**II Corinthians 1:1-11**  
**Why . . .**

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

“Some may wonder why, since they are fully equal, the Father is referred to as **the God . . . of our Lord Jesus Christ** (cf. Mark 15:34; John 20:17). In His deity Jesus is fully equal to the Father, but in His humanity He submitted to Him. Paul’s statement reflects Jesus’ submission to the Father during the Incarnation (cf. John 14:28), when He voluntarily gave up the independent use of His divine attributes (Phil. 2:6-7; cf. Matt. 24:36).” *John MacArthur*

The affliction that came to Paul in Asia is unknown. It most likely happened after he wrote **I Corinthians**, probably in Ephesus. In **I Cor. 16:9** he wrote of a wide door open to him and that there were many adversaries.

Paul was to the point of depression in his life, “despaired even of life” means, no way out, no exit, no passage. He thought he was going to die. The reason this was allowed was so that he would not trust in himself. The end result was, God’s power alone delivered him from his great peril of death.

The more a believer suffers and experiences His comfort, the stronger his hope in God grows. Tested, proven faith.

The purpose of prayer is not to manipulate God but to exalt His power in any given situation and in so doing learn how to submit to His will. Paul views the prayers of the saints as crucial to his ministry.

**Application:**

The age old question of, why do bad things happen to good people, at least, in part, can be understood here in the first eleven verses of **II Corinthians**. Why trials? Why hardship for believing in God? Why me? Why, why, why? Consider the following.

1. When difficult times come into a believer’s life the genuineness of their faith is revealed.
2. When difficult times come, seemingly impossible times come, the believer is naturally drawn to the Lord and not the help of the world. Thereby producing a closer walk with the Lord.
3. When difficult times come into the life of a believer, the things they really love will be revealed. When the trial comes they will either long for the Lord or react with anger and become depressed because their real love of things or people is taken away. It is like a litmus test to find out what really makes a person tick. Like Job, if you lose everything, will you still love Him?
4. When bad times come due to discipline of the Lord, how will you respond? Will you rebel or refocus on obedience to the Lord’s Word thereby growing in holiness.
5. When bad things happen to a believer, the revealed compassion of our loving God enhances worship. This requires patience and endurance, one of the goals of suffering.
6. Suffering strengthens the believer making them useful in ways that they could not have been before going through the suffering.
7. Believers have bad things happen to them is so that they can comfort others who are going through similar trials. The experience of having passed through the fire and coming out on the other side closer to God produces a better understanding of the faithfulness of God to guide and keep His own.
8. Trials, hard times, bad things come along to teach believers how to walk by faith when sight makes no sense at all. Sanctification.