

## Can A Christian Grow When Struggling? (Part 1)

Scripture(s): 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Remember these 9 areas that Paul shares with us in which we can grow even while we are struggling. In fact, it is the struggle that is essential to our growth.

1. Knowing and being able to give true comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
2. Great personal suffering does not destroy faith. Rather, it teaches us to trust God. 2 Corinthians 1:8-10
3. Confronting sin should be seen as an opportunity to redeem not as an invitation to destroy. 2 Corinthians 2:5-7
4. Our clear witness is never worthless even when others reject the gospel. 2 Corinthians 2:14-17; 2 Corinthians 4:3-5
5. Our inabilities are the very place God intends to shine. 2 Corinthians 3:5-6; 2 Corinthians 4:7-12
6. It is both possible and proper to see our present sufferings as insignificant to understand our life in God's hands because of who Jesus is to us. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 2 Corinthians 5:1; 2 Corinthians 6:4-10
7. Repentance is something to run to rather than away from. 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
8. Sacrificial giving brings joy rather than grief. 2 Corinthians 8:1-4
9. When we disagree in the Spirit we can truly bless one another because our goal is to raise up Christ rather than win the argument. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Why do Christians have difficulty growing through struggles? First, such growth is a miraculous act of God, and we have stopped looking for those. Second, growing through struggling requires making Jesus our strength and joy, and we hate the weakness that demands.

I. The first way that Paul lives out finding his strength and joy in Christ and in Christ alone is by \_\_\_\_\_ with God over it. It is when living God's way can result in our real \_\_\_\_\_ that His way becomes real to us.

✓ Hear God's invitation to \_\_\_\_\_ something you value in your walk with Him.

II. The second way that Paul lives out finding his strength and joy in Christ and in Christ alone is by embracing the flesh \_\_\_\_\_ truth of God. Following the Spirit always requires a \_\_\_\_\_ of some part of the flesh.

Luke 9:23-24 <sup>23</sup> And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. -

Galatians 5:16-17 <sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

✓ Are you ready to make your life a \_\_\_\_\_ against the flesh in you?

**October 18, 2020**

"Send a Great Revival"

"How Majestic Is Your Name"

"God With Us"

\* Pastoral Prayer & Children's Sermon \*

"Revive Us Again"

**(Part 2 - Next week!)**

III. The third way that Paul lives out finding his strength and joy in Christ and in Christ alone is by clearly understanding what that truth may \_\_\_\_\_. God may not call us to every form of Christian \_\_\_\_\_, but accepting that God will stretch us as He desires will lead us to lean on \_\_\_\_\_ rather than self.

Luke 14:28-30 <sup>28</sup> For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

✓ Don't just nod your head at the truth of God. Plan what \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ for you.

Remember this - We truly shine for Jesus when we have to succeed \_\_\_\_\_ way.

Our challenge: Find the victory that God has promised us by embracing being completely \_\_\_\_\_ upon Jesus.