



How Do We Handle Pain?

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DECEMBER 5, 2021

FULFILLMENT HOUR



INTRODUCTION

Whenever God causes or allows something to happen, He is always aware, available, able and absolutely in total control.

In our world today there is a lot a pain and sorrow. It seems to grow worse on a daily basis. There is death and destruction, sickness and disease, floods and fires, haves and have nots, economic disasters, crime and injustice. We could go on, and on. Many individuals now feel helpless and hopeless and are living in a depressed states which perpetuates the pain. One thing is for certain God sees all of this, it is all real and it is not going away. So how do we as believers handle the reality of the pain that shows up on a daily basis?



2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 – NKJV

Paul helps us in our lesson today.

1) Pray – **verses 7-8**

Paul was in pain. He wanted relief from this pain. So he does what believers are commanded to do, he prayed. He prays for relief.

The word "PAIN" is spelled out in white, pill-shaped characters on a light blue background. The letters are arranged in a slightly staggered, three-dimensional manner, giving the impression of pills scattered on a surface. A faint watermark "dreamstime" is visible behind the letters.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 – NKJV

a. Point to Ponder: for the believer, relief can come in

two ways:

i. It can come through removal of the pain

ii. It can come by strengthening the believer



PAIN

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 – NKJV

b. When we pray we have said to God, do what is best for me.

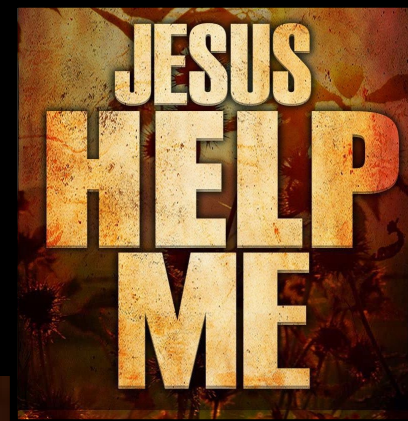


PAIN

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 – NKJV

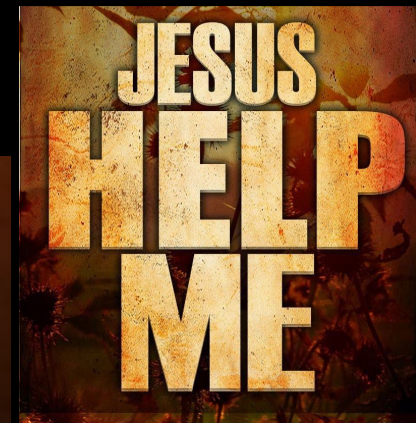
2) Position to Hear and Respond in obedience to God – **verses 8-9**

a. God spoke -- When Paul prayed, he listened for God's response. He did not continue to ask God the same thing after He had spoken. He believed God and accepted His answer. God chose to strengthen Paul, rather than remove the pain. Our pain do not have to be taken away in order for us to have hope and joy.



2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 – NKJV

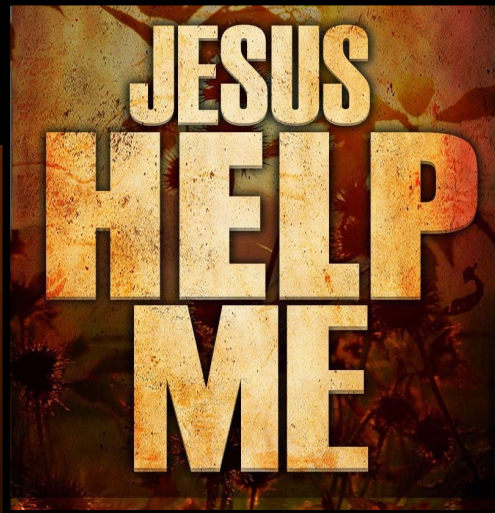
b. Grace is Sufficient –the grace of God is our salvation in Christ and all that comes with it. Your salvation in Christ is sufficient to handle your pain. Your position in Christ is enough to handle your pain – **John 1:17**.



2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 – NKJV

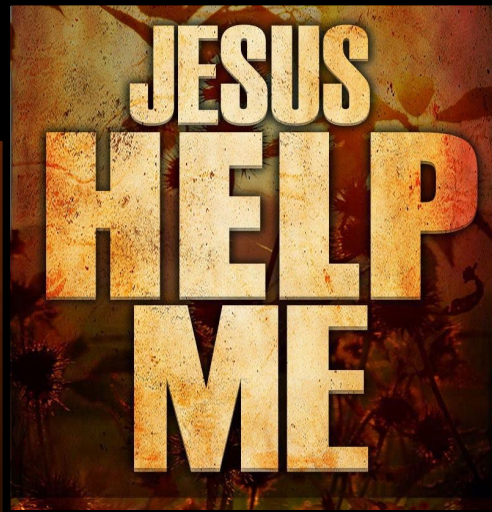
Instead of taking away Paul's pain, God instructed Paul to take full advantage of his position in Christ.

Strength made perfect – **this means that Paul's opportunity to Glorify God would be increased by this pain.** This pain would force Paul to rely on God for help – John 15:5.



2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 – NKJV

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Point to Ponder: Paul did not seek the pain, it came to him --#7. God did not allow the pain to punish Paul or to keep him weak for the sake of weakness. Paul was in danger of getting to the point of not recognizing God for what He did. God allowed the pain to show His strength through Paul.

POINT TO PONDER



2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 – NKJV

Remember, Paul was a representative of Christ – **2 Corinthians 1:1**. Paul is now a maturing believer. Christian maturity is not when we become independent of Christ, but when we become totally dependent upon Him!! God will not allow His children to outgrow Him, or get to the point where we think we do not need Him.

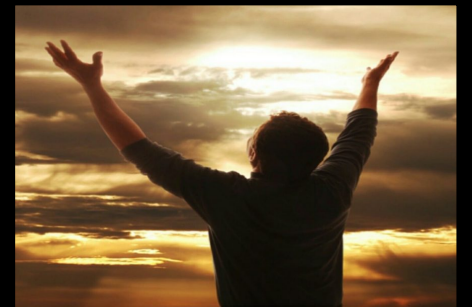


POINT TO PONDER

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 – NKJV

3) Participate in the Answer – **9b-10** –

Paul was only strong because he recognized his weakness and looked outside of himself to the strength of God's Grace.



**His Grace Is
Sufficient**