

“FLOURISHING THROUGH SUFFERING”

Series: “Flourishing”, Part 4 of 6
Sunday, June 20, 2021 at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: 2 Corinthians 6:3-10

Big Idea: God can use suffering to actually enrich our lives and cause us to ultimately flourish even more.

We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. 4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; 6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; 7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; 8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; 9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; 10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. -2 Corinthians 6:3-10

I. TOLERATE SUFFERING.

“Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance.” -2 Corinthians 6:4a

“Be joyful in hope, patience in affliction, faithful in prayer.” -Romans 12:12

II. TERMINATE SUFFERING.

“The things that mark an apostle—signs, wonders and miracles—were done among you with great perseverance.” -2 Corinthians 12:12

III. TRANSCEND SUFFERING.

“If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.” -1 Corinthians 15:19

IV. TRIUMPH IN SUFFERING.

“We also rejoice in our sufferings.” -Romans 5:3b

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” -James 1:2-4

V. BE TRANSFORMED BY SUFFERING.

“As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.” - 2 Corinthians 6:1

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. -2 Corinthians 1:8-9

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. -2 Corinthians 4:8-10{NASV}

“Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.” -2 Corinthians 6:10

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” -2 Corinthians 12:8-9

Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.” -Lamentations 3:22-24