



“School Of Hard Knocks”

Series: “LIFE-GIVING RELATIONSHIPS”, Part 1 of 9

Sunday, June 2, 2024, at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Mat Saxon | Latham Campus Pastor

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

2 Corinthians 1:3–4a, 5 & 8 (ESV), “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction... For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too... For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

I. When life knocks us down, we turn inward.

2 Corinthians 11:23–27 (ESV), “Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.”

II. The quickest way to bounce back is by turning outward.

2 Corinthians 1:3–5 (ESV), “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 (ESV), “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:6a (ESV), “If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort...”

III. We can triumph over despair by turning upward.

2 Corinthians 1:8–10 (ESV), “For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. 10 He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.