

Trust in Times of Trouble.

God allows His people to experience trouble and trials in order to display His astounding power.



The apostle Paul's labours in the province of Asia produced many hardships and sufferings. Paul's description implies considerable distress – ***“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.”***

(2 Cor. 1:8b-9).

He and his companions came to a complete end of themselves. In their hearts they felt ***'the sentence of death.'*** (2 Cor. 1:9)

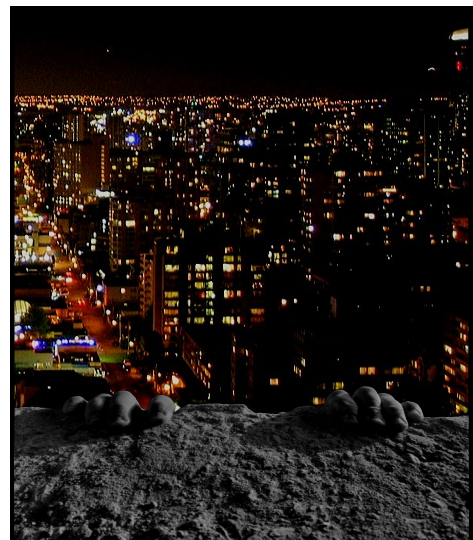
In other words, they felt that there was no hope for them. No way out of their circumstances.

Why did God take him to that kind of horrible extremity? Why did God put him through such physical agony and pain? We could not begin to imagine what kind of torture was being exacted on his body. Yet in the middle of all of this agonizing experience, Paul came to realize that God was putting him through this. Why? ***'But that was to make us rely not on ourselves.'*** (2 Cor. 1:9) God was taking them to the place where they had no escape. They had no human resource intellectually, physically, and emotionally to save themselves. However, that's just exactly the place where God wanted them to be.

This is one of His great purposes in our trials. God takes us to the absolute limit of our capabilities to reveal to us, that we are helpless and can't do anything; all we can do, is stop relying on ourselves, and start trusting in God.

Physical illness, whatever it is, emotional distress, financial disaster, death, being forsaken and left alone, whatever shatters your confidence in your own abilities, your own strength, becomes your extremity, and that is God's opportunity. A progressive weakening of your instinctive self-confidence, that leads you all the way to self-despair, is exactly where God sometimes puts you, because at that point the only thing that's going to hold you together is a radical, passionate trust in God.

A workman was employed on a building project. It was necessary because of some deadlines and bad weather for them to work at night. While busy on the edge of the wall on the 21st floor, he slipped, lost his balance, fell over the edge, grabbed the edge of the wall with both hands and hung on desperately. He began to scream and cry and call for someone to rescue him. It was pitch black, riveting machines were going, metal hammers were beating and pounding, mechanical motors were running and nobody could hear a word. Gradually his arms grew numb as he hung suspended over the street below, and his fingers began to slip, and against every effort of his own will to hold on, at last he lost his hold and he fell...about three inches to a scaffold that had been there all the time. The darkness prevented him from seeing it. And all through his anxiety he was completely safe.



We are so often terrified by our predicaments while all the time the divine hands of our heavenly Father's care are beneath us. Our ignorance doesn't change the certainty, but it does destroy the peace. We need to remember that underneath is the everlasting arms, and you don't really know that until your fingers slip and you drop into them.

