

Pressure, Prayer, Preservation

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

2 Corinthians 1:8-11 NIV 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. {10} He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, {11} as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

Introduction

Paul looks at his life circumstances and realizes that the pressures he is under will destroy him. But he also knows that the Corinthians and others are praying for him, and knows that deliverance is on the way.

I. Pressure

2 Corinthians 1:8b-9 NIV 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.

A. Life pressures

1. Job
2. Finance
3. Time
4. Family

B. Emotional

1. Fears
2. Personal dysfunction

C. Physical

1. Illness
2. Physical limitations

D. Spiritual pressures

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV) lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

1. Ungodly world system
2. Demonic activity
3. Our own faith walk

II. Prayer

2 Corinthians 1:11 NIV as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

A. Peter

Acts 12:5, 7b (NKJV) Peter was therefore kept in prison, but ***constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.*** {7b} ... And his chains fell off his hands.

B. Paul and Silas

Acts 16:25-26 (NKJV) But at midnight Paul and Silas were ***praying and singing hymns to God,*** and the prisoners were listening to them. {26} Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

III. Preservation

2 Corinthians 1:10 NIV He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NKJV) We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

A. Historical preservation

1. Review God's history of care for you
2. Review the moments when He protected you

B. Future preservation

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

C. Present continuing preservation