**BETTER TOGETHER** in 2022

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**No More Silent Suffering!**

2 Corinthians 1:3-11



**We** is better than **Me**.

What you **have** is what we **need**.

One **another** requires another **one**.

**Suffering** - the state of undergoing pain, distress, or hardship.

We live in world of evil and suffering, but why?

The Theoretical and the **Practical**

*In view of the presence of evil and suffering in the world how can I be saved and achieve victory in the midst of pain and suffering?* John Newport, *Life’s Ultimate Questions* pp. 220-222

**Freewill** and true **love**.

Here is the bottom line or one BIG Idea this morning … no matter what is going on in your life …

No one should **suffer** alone.

Notice I didn’t say, no one should suffer. That is not what Scripture teaches. Evil and suffering actually are a part of the fallenness of this world. God has told us that He will redeem and use all our suffering and trials for good.

*And we know that* ***for******those who love God******all things work together for good****, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also* ***predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son****, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.* Romans 8:28–29

***Count it all joy****, my brothers, when you meet* ***trials*** *of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces* ***steadfastness****. And let steadfastness have* ***its full effect****, that you may be* ***perfect*** *and* ***complete****,* ***lacking in nothing****.* James 1:2–4

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while,* ***if necessary****,* ***you have been grieved by various trials****, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him,* ***you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,*** *obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.* 1 Peter 1:3–9

*May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.* 2 Peter 1:2–8

There is suffering we bring upon **ourselves**.

This suffering is in our control.

There is suffering that **others** bring upon us.

This suffering is often no fault of our own. It is not in our control.

**Either way,** God can and does redeem the suffering in our lives in a myriad of ways.

How can I find **comfort** when I am suffering?

No matter our suffering we can find **comfort** in God.

*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****, …* 2 Corinthians 1:3-4a

**Comfort** – *parakaleō -* to alleviate sorrow or distress; give emotional strength to.

**Affliction** – *thlipsis* - an oppressive state of physical, mental, social, or economic adversity.

There is a purpose in God’s **comforting** us.

*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 1:4b

***Bear one another’s burdens****, and so fulfill the law of Christ.* Galatians 6:2

Suffering and comfort go **together**.

*For as we share* ***abundantly in Christ’s sufferings****, so through Christ we share* ***abundantly in comfort too****.* 2 Corinthians 1:5

*But rejoice insofar as you* ***share Christ’s sufferings****, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.* 1 Peter 4:13

***Our hope for you is unshaken****, for we know that as you* ***share in our sufferings****, you will also* ***share in our comfort****.* 2 Corinthians 1:7

Affliction and suffering creates **empathy** and **compassion**.

*If we are afflicted, it is for your* ***comfort*** *and* ***salvation****; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you* ***patiently endure the same sufferings*** *that we suffer.* 2 Corinthians 1:6

Our **desperation** leads us to **dependence** upon God.

*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.* 2 Corinthians 1:8-9

God’s past **performance** gives us hope in our suffering.

*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.* 2 Corinthians 1:10

Prayer makes a **difference** in the face of adversity.

***You also must help us by prayer,*** *so that many will give thanks on our behalf for* ***the blessing granted us*** *through the prayers of many.* 2 Corinthians 1:11

*And* ***let us not grow weary of doing good****, for in due season we will reap,* ***if we do not give up****. So then, as we have opportunity,* ***let us do good to everyone****, and* ***especially*** *to those who are of* ***the household of faith****.* Galatians 6:9-10

Do not suffer in **silence**.

Ask for **help**, for **prayer**, for **comfort**.

If you have **received** comfort, **share** that comfort with others.

Your experience, your pain, your healing, your story can help another person who is going through what you have gone through! We are in this together and we are **Better Together**!