

ADVERSITY: BURDEN OR A BRIDGE? 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-11

SERIES: *MAKING IT THROUGH THE STORMS OF LIFE*

⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)**

➤ Joseph's Adversities

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?" ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. **Genesis 50:19-20 (ESV)**

1. THE KEY TO ADVERSITY IS ____ IT IS _____

¹² There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.
Proverbs 14:12 (ESV)

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. **Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)**

³² Although God gives him grief, yet he will show compassion too, according to the greatness of his loving-kindness. ³³ For he does not enjoy afflicting men and causing sorrow. **Lamentations 3:32-33 (TLB)**

²⁸ We are assured *and* know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design *and* purpose. **Romans 8:28 (AMP)**

2. GOD'S GOAL FOR US IS CHRISTLIKENESS

²⁹ because those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.
Romans 8:29 (NET1)

- ✓ The Likeness of Christ's Freedom
- ✓ The Likeness of Christ's _____
- ✓ The Likeness of Christ's Confidence
- ✓ The Likeness of Christ's _____
- ✓ The Likeness of Christ's Heart

- ✓ The Likeness of Christ's Focus
- ✓ The Likeness of Christ's _____
- ✓ The Likeness of Christ's Power

3. ADVERSITY: A BURDEN OR A BRIDGE?

➤ Spiritual and emotional growth can be traced to how you respond to _____ when adversity strikes.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55:8-9 (ESV)**

³³ God's riches, wisdom, and knowledge are so deep that it is impossible to explain his decisions or to understand his ways. **Romans 11:33 (GW)**

4. TO STAND STRONG IN THE STORMS OF LIFE: (From *Standing Strong*, by Charles Stanley)

- a) Start with God's Word and decide now that you will honor the Lord regardless of what happens or what He asks of you. (Mt. 7:24)
- b) Keep your main focus on God Himself. (Ps 32:8)
- c) Fight your battles on your knees. (Eccles. 5:1-2)
- d) Diligently sow trust and obedience in your life. (Gal 6:8)
- e) Accept the challenge you are facing is hitting you where you are weak so that the Holy Spirit can pour His life through you and be your source of strength. (Eph. 1:19-20)
- f) Make sure you not only remain in fellowship with other believers, but you actively seek to pour Christ's life into them. (Heb. 10:23-25)
- g) See everything that happens as coming from God Himself for the very purpose of making you stronger. It is all for your benefit (1 Pet. 5:10; Rom. 8:28-29)