

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES

September 26, 2021

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

How many times have we found ourselves facing difficulties in life and have placed all our trust in God? How many times did we believe that there was no hope and we felt like we are dying, and we asked for an intercessory prayer. In today's passage we will learn of Paul's great need to share with the Corinthian Church his pain and suffering, his need for God and church's prayers. Here, the apostle Paul relies in God alone and not in his own understanding and abilities for his salvation. He encourages this church and us to continue trusting in Jesus Christ alone for our salvation. He knew, and we know that Jesus already paid the price for our sins. We must all accept the gift of forgiveness and eternal life that God is giving us through his Son Jesus.

Letters to the Corinthian Church

“Relying On God” 2 Corinthians 1:8-11

⁸For 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. ⁹Indeed, 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. ¹⁰He 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. ¹¹You 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.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Why was it important for Paul to share with the church what he was going through and feeling?
2. What did Paul really want to communicate to the Corinthian Church?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. How does facing our difficulties help us grow as Disciples of Christ?
4. How has a crisis in your life helped you in your spiritual life?
5. What is the value of learning to rely on God and not on ourselves?
6. What does this do to our ego?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

7. Why did Paul ask this church to pray for him?
8. How can our prayers be effective to help others in need?
9. Why is the ministry of intercessory prayer so important?

Notes: _____

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray, admit that and ask God to help you pray. Ask God to supply your faith. Ask God to help you be a peacemaker, not someone who quarrels. Pray for someone you know that you are currently divided from. God loves us, and He will help us.