

Reading 2 Tim 2: 1-19

Sustained in Sufferings

(No one said it would be easy)

Suffering is unavoidable

Christians are far from immune from it

JESUS himself said believers **WILL** have suffering in this life *John 16:33 Revltn 2:10*

Godly writers are puzzled

Psalm 73 & Jeremiah 12

WHY God ?

A biblical platform to support our understanding, remember Paul is writing about **practical Christian** living to a young Pastor in difficult times and a complex society he emphasizes the disciplined life of a soldier

- **2 Tim 2 & 3** We can expect hardship & suffering and it may increase
- **2 Tim 1, 2 & 3** It may come because of our godly lifestyle, our sharing of the gospel, or a stand for biblical truth & values
- **2 Tim 1 & 4** It came come when we are rejected or lonely or depressed .
- **2 Tim 2: 22** It can be a consequence of us living an unholy lifestyle

Good news God **WILL** give us grace & power to endure suffering and

A: Overcome B: Fulfill our purpose & mission

So how do we do it ?

11 **short power shots**

1: Don't forget WHY you are suffering

2 Tim 2 8-10 Paul says remember your **Purpose and whom** you serve, he suffered to get the gospel out, for the sake of other Christians and for Gods greater glory-- note it's all OUTward looking not INward

Illus: Social media full of sympathy hunters- Forget It Look UP—Look OUT

Conc: It's not about you, it's about the Kingdom and others.

2: Remember you are a prisoner to Gods will not your circumstances or others opinions.

2 Tim 1:8 Paul says I am not in prison because men put me here, I am here to fulfill the purpose of God

Conc: Sometimes it may not seem like it, but Gods in control

3: Keep recalling the things you know to be true from God's word

2 Tim 1:1, 5- 9-13 Remember All you have received, Remember you have a high calling, Remember the grace of God

Conc: We are responsible to call to mind or think on these things

4: Keep on, keeping on

2 Tim 4: 1-5 So Persevere, Focus on the finish line,
Stay faithful despite the opposition

Illus: Bjp DIY task Bite at a time

Conc: Keep to a measured pace, a day at a time, and you'll make it

5: Trust God to sort out the opposition

2 Tim 2: 23-26 Don't become Bitter, aggressive or argumentative

Conc: Every life is in HIS hands

6: Remember how God has helped you in the past

2 Tim 3:11 4: 16-17 So be quick to A: Praise him B:
Tell others

Conc: This will deflect us from negativity and drifting

7: Rely on the resources you already have

2 Tim, Phillips 2, Ephesians 6 Which are God's grace, Gods Unique gifts to you, Gods Power, Indwelling Holy Spirit, Gods word these are MORE than enough.

Conc: Our comprehensive resource will not fail or run out.

8: Remember you don't walk alone

Mthw 28:20 Christs presence is uniformly with you (All of Christ All the time)

2 Tim 1: 3 The prayers of other Christians will support you

2 Tim 1:8, Heb 13:3 Coln 1: 24 Other Christians walk a similar pathway

2 Tim 3:10-14 Heroes of the faith, Bible + History, they succeeded so will you

Conc: There is strength in numbers (cloud of witness)

9: Take the long view

2 Tim 1, 3 & 4 Wrongs will be righted, the Just will be rewarded, you will be an example to encourage others

Gen 18:25 Will not the judge of all the earth do right

Conc: A just outcome is on the way

10: Never ever forget Jesus

2 Tim 2 His suffering and triumph
Mthw 28 His Promises, Power & Presence
John 14:2-3 His Preparations in Heaven for You
Hebw 12:2 He endured cross for joy ahead (You)

Conc: Because of HIM it all works out OK

11: The Final analysis

Acts 5:41: Peter & John considered it a joy to be flogged, beaten and publicly humiliated for Jesus as this was a mark of HIS APPROVAL (*Don't Endure/Exalt in it*)

Romans 8:18 AMP

For I consider [from the standpoint of faith] that the sufferings of this present life are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us!

Conc: It will be worth it all in the end

Overview the **Eleven Power** shots are only a sample of all that is on offer to : **Sustain us IN suffering**

Let's see what Christian suffering **IS** and what it is **NOT** as we conclude.

Sermon in a Sentence

**Christian suffering is NOT Resentful Resignation, it
IS Restful Rejoicing**

A simple prayer of commitment

Lord Jesus there are many things in life I don't understand, I have experienced pain and suffering but I commit myself to you now, fully forgiving those who have hurt me. I rest in the fact that you will continue to display in me your glorious life through all that I pass through, till I see you face to face —

Amen