

## Struck Down But Not Destroyed

- YOU WILL NOT BE CRUSHED;
- YOU WILL NOT DESPAIR;
- YOU WILL NEVER BE ABANDONED; AND
- YOU WILL NOT BE DESTROYED.

### **2 Corinthians 1:3-5 Amplified Bible**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed [gratefully praised and adored] be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts and encourages us in every trouble so that we will be able to comfort and encourage those who are in any kind of trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. <sup>5</sup> For just as Christ's sufferings are ours in abundance [as they overflow to His followers], so also our comfort [our reassurance, our encouragement, our consolation] is abundant through Christ [it is truly more than enough to endure what we must].

### **2 Corinthians 1: 8-10**

<sup>8</sup> For we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about our trouble in [the west coast province of] Asia [Minor], how we were utterly weighed down, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life [itself]. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt within ourselves that we had received the sentence of death [and were convinced that we would die, but this happened] so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup> He rescued us from so great a threat of death, and will continue to rescue us. On Him we have set our hope. And He will again rescue us [from danger and draw us near],

### **2 Corinthians 1:20 Amplified Bible**

<sup>20</sup> For as many as are the promises of God, in Christ they are [all answered] "Yes." So through Him we say our "Amen" to the glory of God.

### **2 Corinthians 4:8-9 Amplified Bible**

<sup>8</sup> We are pressured in every way [hedged in], but not crushed; perplexed [unsure of finding a way out], but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup> hunted down and persecuted, but not deserted [to stand alone]; struck down, but never destroyed;

### **2 Corinthians 4:8-9 New International Version**

<sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;  
<sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

**Question: What does this mean for me as a Christian?**

- Will we be under pressure at times?
- Will we get confused sometimes?
- Will we face harsh criticism during our walk with Christ?
- Will we get knocked down sometimes?

**ANSWER: YES TO ALL OF THE ABOVE!!!**

**1. We do not and will not buckle under the pressure.**

**“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed”**

**Psalm 3:5-6 New International Version**

<sup>5</sup> I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.

<sup>6</sup> I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side.

**1 Samuel 13:5-6 Amplified Bible**

<sup>5</sup> Now the Philistines gathered to fight against Israel, 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen, and troops in multitude, like sand on the seashore. They came up and camped at Michmash, east of Beth-aven. <sup>6</sup> When the men of Israel saw that they were in a tight situation (for their troops were hard-pressed), they hid in caves, in thickets, in cellars, and in [dry] cisterns (pits).

**2. Bewilderment / Confusion Will NOT leave us in NOR lead us to a sense of hopelessness.**

**We are “perplexed, but not in despair”**

**Romans 8:26 Amplified Bible**

<sup>26</sup> In the same way the Spirit [comes to us and] helps us in our weakness. We do not know what prayer to offer or how to offer it as we should, but the Spirit Himself [knows our need and at the right time] intercedes on our behalf with sighs and groanings too deep for words.

**Romans 8:11 New International Version**

<sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

**3. Being actively oppressed and mistreated won't dissuade or deter us in our walk with Christ.**

**We are “persecuted, but not abandoned”**

**1 Corinthians 16:8-9 New International Version**

<sup>8</sup> But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, <sup>9</sup> because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

### **Matthew 28:18-20 Amplified Bible**

<sup>18</sup> Jesus came up and said to them, “All authority (all power of absolute rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always [remaining with you perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of the age.”

### **Matthew 5:10-11 New International Version**

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

#### **4. Not even Crushing Blows will destroy us. Again We Rise. We are “struck down, but not destroyed”**

*“The world ain’t all sunshine and rainbows. It’s a very mean and nasty place and I don’t care how tough you are it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain’t about how hard ya hit. It’s about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward. That’s how winning is done!”*

### **Proverbs 24:16 New International Version**

<sup>16</sup> for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.

### **2 Kings 13:18-19 Amplified Bible**

<sup>18</sup> Then he said, “Take the arrows,” and he took them. And Elisha said to the king of Israel, “Strike the ground,” and he struck it three times and stopped. <sup>19</sup> So the man of God was angry with him and said, “You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck down Aram until you had destroyed it. But now you shall strike Aram only three times.”

### **2 Corinthians 4:15-18 Amplified Bible**

<sup>15</sup> For all [these] things are for your sake, so that as [God’s remarkable, undeserved] grace reaches to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of [our great] God. <sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not become discouraged [spiritless, disappointed, or afraid]. Though our outer self is [progressively] wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our momentary, light distress [this passing trouble] is producing for us an eternal weight of glory [a fullness] beyond all measure [surpassing all comparisons, a transcendent splendour and an endless blessedness]! <sup>18</sup> So we look not at the things which are

seen, but at the things which are unseen; for the things which are visible are temporal [just brief and fleeting], but the things which are invisible are everlasting and imperishable.

**Luke 22:31-34 Amplified Bible**

<sup>31</sup> “Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! Satan has demanded permission to sift [all of] you like grain;  
<sup>32</sup> but I have prayed [especially] for you [Peter], that your faith [and confidence in Me] may not fail; and you, once you have turned back again [to Me], strengthen and support your brothers [in the faith].” <sup>33</sup> And Peter said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death!” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “I say to you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will [utterly] deny three times that you know Me.”

**QUESTION:** What can we expect as Christians who live in this world?

**ANSWER:** If you follow Jesus, you will face suffering, trouble, distress and perplexity. Sometimes you will feel backed into a corner. Sometimes you may think God has forgotten you. But if you hang on, you will see God’s power at work, and though you are broken by life, out of your brokenness will come the fragrance of Christ himself.