

Rely On God Alone!

11-19-17

2 Corinthians 1:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

I have taught on these verses many times, but the older I get, I continue to see, I do not understand the depth of its truth. So one more time let us look at these verses. We start where Paul has come to the end of his own strength and wishes God would just take him home. Like this guy: OVERHEAD

2 Corinthians 1:8–9a (ESV)

⁸ 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. ^{9a} Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death.

Another giant of the Bible, Elijah, went through the same emotions when Jezebel threatens to kill him.

1 Kings 19:3–4 (ESV)

³ Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life!
⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life."

So when we have a bad day and come to the end of our rope, we are in good company. As they asked, we also ask, “Why?” The answer is always clear, “God wants us to rely on HIM.” A simple truth is, “We never know God is all we need until God is all we have.” Therefore, God often puts us in tough situations that take us to the end of ourselves.

2 Corinthians 1:9b (ESV)

But that was **“to make us”** rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

God knows when we come to the end of all our self-efforts and call upon HIM we will be in a position to experience the fullness of HIS power! God wants us to rely on HIM alone! The fact is “As Christians, there should be no human explanation for our lives.” God wants us to trust and rely on HIM alone:

When Enemies attack! God alone!

Psalm 25:2 (ESV)

O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

When we are Brokenhearted! God alone!

Psalm 34:18 (ESV)

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.

Why is it so important to rely on God **Alone? Why is it necessary to have a life without human explanation?**

Isaiah 57:15 (ESV) **GRASP THE MAJESTY!**

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:

**“I dwell in the high and holy place,
and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly
spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly,
and to revive the heart of the contrite.”**

**The answer of why: Because God wants to dwell
with us with power and majestically revive us
revealing HIS GLORY IN US!**

**God dwells in heaven with power and glory. But
God is bringing heaven to earth through us!**

Isaiah 66:1 (ESV) **GRASP THE MAJESTY!**

Thus says the LORD:

Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool!

Isaiah 66:2a (ESV)

All these things my hand has made,
and so all these things came to be,
declares the LORD.

**This states God’s position, HIS majestic supremacy!
As we grasp the majestic power and glory of God, we
must also grasp that **God has one singular focus.****

God wants to reveal HIS power and glory through us HIS people. Those who rely on HIM **alone!**

Isaiah 66:2b (ESV)

But this is the one to whom I will look:
he who is humble and contrite in spirit
and trembles at my word.

God is focused on the humble, contrite who trembles at HIS word. **Those who rely on HIM!**

Humility is confidence! Confident we can't do it and confident God can do it! **The Humble experience the presence of God and walk in HIS confidence. This confidence belongs to those who rely on God.**

2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV)

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, **"to show"** that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

God is teaching us through all difficulties. When things get tough, remember, **"Rely on God!" There should be no human explanation for our lives!**

2Cor.5:21 (NIV)

God made HIM who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in HIM we might become the righteousness of God.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.