

Scripture Consulting Essentials

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Our God Delivers

II Corinthians 1:8-11.

The Greek word translated “trouble” in verse 8 is *thlipsis*, which means “a pressing together, pressure, oppression, or affliction.” It is used to refer to any kind of mental or physical pressures or afflictions.

Verse 10 tells us the significance of knowing about Paul’s pressures and afflictions, namely, that God delivered Paul and his companions from so great a death or what could have been a terminal situation for them. God delivered them, and He will continue to deliver His people. The context indicates that God does not want His children to be ignorant of situations in which there is great pressure in that God is able and willing to deliver them no matter how intense the matter seems. He is a God of deliverance.

Verse 11: Another ingredient in this deliverance was the help that came from the prayers of the Corinthians. They may have prayed for them with their understanding as well as in the spirit by speaking in tongues, which makes intercession for others. When others are under a great deal of pressure, they need the helpful prayers of their brothers and sisters in Christ, knowing that God is ready to deliver them.

II Corinthians 2:14.

II Corinthians 4:1-8.

Paul and his associates taught the genuine gospel of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ. However, that gospel was hidden to some people because the god of this world, who is Satan, had blinded the minds of those who chose to not believe the gospel. People believe the gospel of God concerning Jesus Christ when the light of the glorious gospel shines upon them. Satan, the god of this world, does not want that to happen, and he does what he can to obstruct that light from shining upon people. When that happens, people do not see the manifestation of God’s delivering power in their lives.

Verses 15-18.

The Greek word translated “affliction” in verse 17 is *thlipsis*, “a pressing together, pressure, oppression, or affliction,” the same word that was used in II Corinthians 1:8. God does not want His children to be ignorant of those things and of God’s ability to deliver, no matter how serious those pressures and afflictions may seem to be. Our outward man, our body and soul, may be perishing from those afflictions, but our inward man, the spirit born within us, is renewed day by day. We should recall that speaking in tongues edifies the spirit.

II Corinthians 11:24-30.

II Corinthians 12:7-10.

The thorn in the flesh is defined here as a messenger of Satan sent to buffet Paul. All the pressures and afflictions that he enumerated in II Corinthians 11 came from Satan, the one who blinded people from seeing the gospel.

All of these pressures and afflictions are weaknesses from which God is able to deliver. In our weaknesses, we are strong when the power of Christ rests upon us. He redeemed us so that we can live as children of God with a more abundant life, triumphant in Christ. God does not want us to be ignorant of the source of the afflictions and of His ability to deliver us.

The Spiritual Battle

From II Corinthians, we have seen that God wants his children to not be ignorant of the pressures and where they come from, nor to be ignorant of God's ability to deliver them. Sickness, oppression, and death come from Satan, the god of this age, and his hosts. However, health, deliverance, and life come from God and His Son Jesus Christ.

Acts 10:36-38.

Jesus Christ healed those who were oppressed of the devil. God and His Son also bring deliverance today to us who have been oppressed by the devil.

I John 3:8:

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

I Peter 2:24:

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Ephesians 2:1-10.

We are God's workmanship. He has a great love for us, and He takes care of His workmanship.

Ephesians 6:10-18.

We cannot rely on our own ability to deliver in many situations, even as Paul and his associates could not. We are to look to God and His Son Jesus Christ for that deliverance. We are to be strong in the lord and in the power of his might.

God has given us His Word. When His Word is taught with integrity and purity, it brings deliverance. God has also given us the gift of holy spirit which we can manifest in nine ways and by which we can carry out God's great delivering power. Without knowing the Word of God and our ability to manifest the spirit born within us, we could not overcome the spiritual opponents. God has given us all that we need in His Word and in the new birth to overcome the enemy and to live triumphantly in Christ Jesus. God gave us the gift of holy spirit because we needed it. We are His workmanship. We need to know God's Word and we need to keep our eyes on God with reverence and obedience, knowing that He works in us to will and to do of His good pleasure. Then we shall see God's deliverance in our lives.