
“WHEN AT WITS END CORNER, WHAT THEN?”

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-10

WATERKLOOF BAPTIST CHURCH SERMON NOTES 17/05/2020

REV. PAUL WITTER

Introduction

We all need to put life in perspective! We all go through times of difficulty, frustration and even depression. The Apostle Paul was no stranger to crisis. In v8 he tells that things were so desperate, that he despaired even of life. It was as if the *“sufferings of Christ had been poured into his life”* (v5). Paul had agonized over his *“thorn in the flesh”*: why had God not removed it?

We too have those things that stress us out.

How do you respond when you are at ‘wits end corner’? ..

- When you are uncertain about the future
- When life appears to be at a dead end street
- When you feel like the elevator that says, ‘not running today’.

Are you like:

- Job’s wife who said *“curse God and die”*
- The OT priest, Eli – wished his problems away
- The Apostle Paul – who remembered the *“Father of Compassion”* and the *“God of all comfort”*

What was Paul’s secret of victory?

How can you take hold of crisis and make it work for your spiritual growth?

Three simple reminders

1. When at wits end corner we ... realize the foolishness of in ourselves.

Paul realization: v8b, 9

"We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. gIndeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead."

Truman Alderage: *"Sometimes God has to put us flat on our backs because that's the only way we will look upwards"*

Why had God allowed this to happen? V9

"This happened that we might not rely in ourselves, but on God"

God has one great purpose:

Jeremiah 17:5,7

"This is what the Lord says: Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength, whose mind and heart turns away from the Lord.

But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him."

2 Corinthians 12:10

2. When at wits end corner ... we develop an unshakable in God.

v10: *“He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us”*

Sometimes God delivers us FROM our trials, and at other times He delivers us IN our trials.

Getting used to saying: “By the will of God”

v3: Experiencing the God of compassion

V2 Paul knew a God who granted peace

The correct order: grace, then peace

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

What did Paul learn from this experience? V9

3. When at wits end corner ... we realize the power of

Bad theology:

R.C. Trench: *“We must not conceive prayer as though it were an overcoming of God’s reluctance, when in fact it is laying hold of God’s highest willingness.”*

V11: “as you help us with your prayers”

Paul had been through the school of suffering

Learning the great truth: 2 Corinthians 12:9

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness”

The Apostle’s secret at wits end corner: focus on

Are you standing at wits end corner ...

- ... it’s just where God’s power is shown
- ... is where Jesus loves to come
- ... is where the burden bearer stands
- ... is only where the “God who is able” is proved