

# “Why Me, Lord ?”

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- Why does God allow His children to experience trials, troubles, pressures, and stress?
- It would be a great “selling point” for the gospel if God’s children lived “happily ever after.”
- Only a partial answer to the question of “Why”.

## “Why Me, Lord ?”

### 1. God allows struggles so that we might experience a side of God that we might not otherwise experience.

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4-- *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all of our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”*
- a. Our God is a God of COMPASSION! Compassion is a “relative” attribute of God, seen only in relationship to mankind
  - Psalm 145:8-9-- *“The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.”*
  - Psalm 145:14-16-- *“The LORD upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open your hands and satisfy the desire of every living thing.”*
  - Psalm 145:18-20a-- *“The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desires of those who fear him; He will hear their cries and save them. The LORD preserves all who love Him.”*
- b. Jesus Christ demonstrated the compassionate side of God.
  - Matthew 9:36-- *“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”*
  - Matthew 14:14-- *“was moved with compassion and healed their sick.”*

### 2. God counters our stress with His strength! How?

- 2 Corinthians 1:5-- *“For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.”*
- a. Encourages us through His Spirit.
  - 1) The Holy Spirit as the “Comforter”
    - John 14:26-- *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*
  - 2) Paul’s experience of the “comfort”
    - 2 Timothy 4:16-- *“At my first defense, no one stood with me, but all forsook me.”*
    - 2 Timothy 4:17-- *“But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.”*
- b. Encourages us through His Word.
  - Romans 15:4-- *“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”*
  - 1) Old Testament is written for our example and instruction.
  - 2) Encouragement through People and Promises
  - 3) Promise of God’s abiding love.
    - Romans 8:35-- *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”*
    - Romans 8:37-39-- *“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor*

*things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!"*

**c. Encourages us through One Another.**

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4-- *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all of our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."*
- 1) We are to be *"Encouraged Encouragers"*
  - 2) We are to share "our story" in order to help others.
    - 2 Corinthians 1:6-- *"Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation."*

**What it takes for us to be "Encouraged Encouragers"?**

1. Must be able to **IDENTIFY** how God has encouraged us in the past.
2. Must be willing to be **VULNERABLE**, to "open up, to tell one's story.
3. Must have **CONFIDENCE**, not in ourselves, but in God.
  - 2 Corinthians 1:7-- *"And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation."*