

The Redemptive Purpose in Grief is Hope in a Fallen World

2 Corinthians 1

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all comfort**,⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, **so that** we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.⁵ For as **we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings**, so through Christ **we share abundantly in comfort too.**^[a]⁶ If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.⁷ Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you **share** in our sufferings, you will also **share** in our comfort.*[here is how we tell our story to accomplish the goal of comforting others not to give up...how God helped us]*⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers,^[b] 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.¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.¹¹ You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.*

Paul wants the Corinthians to be informed about his suffering so his story will result in deeper hope, strengthened faith, and renewed worship among them. He wants to present strong reasons not to give up. How God brought comfort in the midst of it and how he used people to do it.

Paul's suffering → **comfort** → **comfort** → **hope**

Purposeful suffering, leading to the experience of God's comfort, producing the ability to comfort others, resulting in a community of hope

True hope is rooted in the knowledge that I am the child of the King-God is in my suffering

- ✠ He loves me with a love that nothing can take away
- ✠ He has given me his forgiving and empowering grace
- ✠ He is daily changing and maturing me
- ✠ He has promised to give me what-ever I need to face what comes my way
- ✠ He has promised that I will live with him forever in a place without suffering, sorrow, or sin

This means that in the most difficult moments of my life nothing truly permanent or valuable is at stake

- ✠ What I really live for is safe and secure
- ✠ I am in the family of God, eternally loved and cared for by him
- ✠ This is real hope

Ps 69:1-2 Ps 40:1-3!!