

The Fellowship of the Suffering

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Tabletalk *(For family devotions and Life Group discussions)*

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Introduction:

A. THE CONDITION OF A BROKEN CREATION (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

1. A dislocated order (Romans 1:20-22)
2. A dysfunctional generation (Matthew 12:45)

B. THE CONDITION OF A BROKEN CREATOR (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

1. A God of compassion
2. A God of all comfort

C. THE CONDITION OF A BROKEN CHRIST (2 Corinthians 1:5)

1. The trials of Christ
2. The triumph of Christ

D. THE CONDITION OF A BROKEN CHANNEL (2 Corinthians 1: 6-7)

Three kinds responses of suffering:

1. Retreat
2. Revolution
3. Renewal

Conclusion:

Gratitude Project

Shame

Heartaches

Affliction

Routs

Experiences

1. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. How can you make sense with verse 3-4, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles”? How is God’s comfort and compassion equally befitting in all of our troubles?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 1:5-6. Why is it important to understand our suffering in the light of Christ’s suffering? How did the cross symbolize the paradox of suffering and glory?
3. Read Philippians 3:10. Paul used specific words to describe his pursuit to have a relationship with Christ: knowledge of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering. Which one brings us closer to God and why?
4. As a wounded healer, share one or two experiences from this acronym that God can use for you share and reach out a specific person resulting in healing, salvation or renewal:
S-hame
H-eartaches
A-ffliction
R-outs
E-xperiences
5. Close the Life Group Meeting by sharing testimonies of your gratitude project this past three weeks.