

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **April 22, 2018** sermon, "Beyond Our Strength." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 1:8-11) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

WHEN IT SEEMS AS THOUGH WE ARE MINISTERING BEYOND OUR STRENGTH, CONSIDER . . .

1. The weight that God allows (8)
  - a. Paul references deep and painful trials, but he does not "tell-all."
    - i. He has been weighed down and "roughed up" by hard circumstances.
    - ii. Yet the details remain undefined. He brings the details to God.
  - b. Do not assume that others should be able to bear certain burdens (like you have).
  - c. We all need "spotters," friends in the weight room, ready to help bear the weight.
2. The purpose that God established (9)
  - a. Trials come to end our self-reliance, and to get us to rely fully on God.
  - b. Only God can raise the dead, so trust him.
  - c. God teaches you to fully trust him so that you can help others fully trust him.
3. The hope that God instills (10)
  - a. Review how God has fully delivered us in the past.
  - b. Consider that God will fully deliver us in the future.
  - c. Hope: "trust that God will deliver us from our current 'beyond your strength' trial."
4. The prayers that God desires (11)
  - a. Consider Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane.
  - b. We can pray for escape from trials, and sometimes we do.
  - c. We can pray for endurance through trials, and often we do.
  - d. We must pray for the enlistment of trials, and that God will use them for his glory.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: We considered trials which "afflict" (weight placed on us), "conflict" (turmoil around us) and "inflict" (occurring within us) us. It's as if we are in the training room, and we are either "under the weight" of a trial, or we are ready to be a "spotter" as we reduce the weight of the burden for others. Which is it for you right now? Where are you strong (ready to help others bear their weight)? Where are you weak (needing help to bear your burden)?
2. Based on #2, above: Trials are intended to teach us to stop relying on ourselves, and to start learning to fully rely on God. Why is this so difficult? In what way would you say that your recent trials have produced more reliance upon God?
3. Based on #2, above: Have you ever been frustrated and bitter at a friend whom you did not think helped you enough in the midst of a trial? Trials do not exist to get us to rely on others, but on God. Why is bitterness and frustration simply evidence that you are relying on yourself?
4. Based on #3, above: How has God delivered you from trials in the past? How will God deliver you from every trial in the future? In what way does reviewing God's faithfulness remove anxiety, frustration and bitterness from your current trial? Are you truly hopeful?