



God Doesn't Waste Pain

Dr. Dave Currie

BIBLICAL UNDERPINNINGS

2 Corinthians 1:3-10 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, *so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.* ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ If we are *distressed*, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are *comforted*, it is for your comfort, *which produces in you patient endurance* of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also *you share in our comfort.* ⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,[Ⓜ] about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, 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. ¹⁰ 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,

Ephesians 2:1-10 - Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.[Ⓜ] He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. ⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷ *So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.* ⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you *can't take credit for this*; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, *so none of us can boast about it.* ¹⁰ *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 - *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.* ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, *so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.*

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, *that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father* in heaven.

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20 SOLID PRINCIPLES of APPLICATION

1. YOU HAVE PAIN - both self-induced and others initiated.
2. You CAUSED PAIN - and want to forget or minimize the damage you have done.
3. Bury your pain to block steps to freedom.
4. Expose your pain to experience steps to Freedom.
5. Honesty and Humility create a platform of Believability that God desires to use.
6. Understand the POWER of Transparency! Genuine self-disclosure amplifies wise words.
7. You have gone through a lot to be where you are today. Don't waste the Platform.
8. Your pain transformed reflects back to the God who wants to use your story to help others.
9. Let God use your darkest moments to be His greatest light.
10. Your experience - even your failures - disclosed honestly can be used by God to give others a positive perspective on their recovery.
11. If you made it through and beyond your addiction, implication... so can they.
12. If you minimize the scope and depth of your own struggles, you minimize the magnitude of God's transforming difference in your life.
13. Admit the FAILURE, GUILT, SHAME and REGRET - then - EMBRACE GRACE, FORGIVENESS, RENEWAL and TRANSFORMATION because of JESUS!
14. Don't share your story in any way that detracts others from the grace of God and the gratitude for your recovery.
15. Avoid all details that are *garish* (brash, brazen, gross, distracting). In your attempt to be truthful, don't be trashy or create a temptation.
16. If God can redeem your mess, forgive and free you - then, to all those that you genuinely share your story with, there are gifts of hope and help.
17. Your recovery disclosed becomes both a motivating factor and a guiding light as to how others can
18. To keep your recovery private is to lock the door that God could use to show others the way of recovery through you.
19. Pack your pride and admit your pain - then stand back and see what God will do.
20. When we proudly minimize our dark past, we rob God of greater glory and lessen our chances of every impacting others.

*I am far more than my mistakes...
they don't define me - Jesus does!*