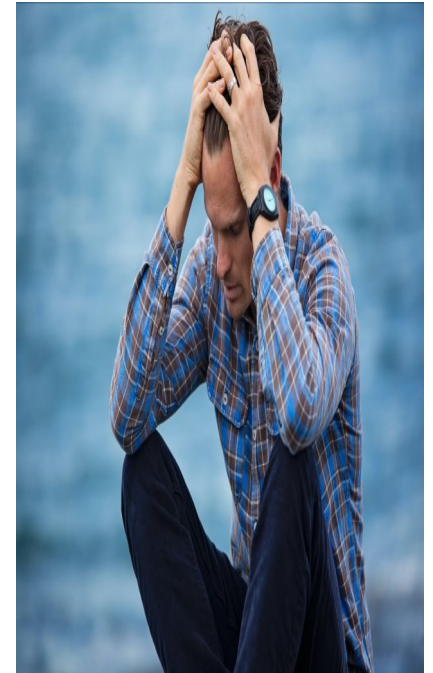




II Corinthians 11:30: "If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities."



Just A Minute with Scripture

Can We Really Glory in Sufferings ?

God ordained Paul as our Apostle (Rom. 11:13) and the pattern for the Body of Christ. His life was filled with sufferings. (II Cor. 11:23-28) God relays, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (II Tim. 3:12) Did God zap Paul miraculously with understanding to go through difficulties? No. Over time he learned doctrine that enabled him to deal with issues: "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have **learned**, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Phil. 4:11) As he digested the revelations of Christ, he acquired new thinking: "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." (II Cor. 12:10)

We are to follow Paul as he gloried in sufferings, allowing them to work within us. Glory has many meanings, yet this glory relates to being thankful in a challenge so God's character can be made manifest. Paul realized that relying on wisdom (grace doctrine) in his inner man would empower him to negotiate struggles, while it helped him grow. Godly qualities were manifested in Paul, impacting others. Christ's power rested on him as he trusted.

An earlier epistle gives us a glimpse of why we are to live as who we are in Christ, though the travails of life can be grievous: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Rom. 8:18) Over time and through revelations, Paul learned how God's grace works, being able to face any sufferings. At first, he was unable, as he wanted the thorn taken away. However, God taught him: "...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...." (II Cor. 12:9) We can also learn to rely on God's grace, allowing His power to change us inwardly. Then we can glory in the problem, knowing Christ will be manifest in us. The challenges work for our good. (Rom. 8:28) So yes, we can glory in sufferings. Basically, walk by faith in sound doctrine, then God gives the growth, producing glory. He will teach us to trust Him as we grow, even to take pleasure in sufferings. **Think on this.**

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Feel free to call if you have questions with any articles.

Sin Is Real... We Need a Savior!

Each of know we are a sinner, but we are also to realize we need God. He is our Provider and Father, who gave His only Son to die on the cross to pay for our sin. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Rom. 3:24) Think on this and simply believe the verse!



Study Devotional of the Book of Galatians

God desired to teach the Galatians to submit to Paul's authority as the Apostle of the Gentiles, and pattern. This Church allowed other teachers and doctrine to affect their spiritual growth.

Verses this Month: *Galatians 4:16-18*
"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? They zealously affect you, but not well, yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you."

1. Why would the Galatians see their

own Apostle as an "enemy?" What did he do to them? How could this very thing happen to us today with saints in the local assembly?

2. Who "zealously" affected the Galatians and what was done according to the verses in this section? Look back to Chapters 1:6-7 and 3:1-6 for clues.

3. Why did Paul say "and not only when I am present with you?" To what was he referring?

4. Knowing you can be "affected" by others, what can you do to protect yourself? Are you taking this seriously?

"As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting..." II Corinthians 11:10

Questions & Answers With Deborah

Question 1: How do I stop the negative thoughts in my mind?

The key issue is being self aware: where are you in your thinking? As you realize you are focused on the negative, choose to yield unto God and walk by faith, as it teaches in *Rom. 6*, and focus above. How? Paul relays that we are to bring "... into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (*II Cor. 10:5*) This is not possible for man to do, yet we can as we are led by the Spirit and conformed to Christ's image, gaining His mind. As we focus above, minding spiritual things, this will replace the negative thoughts.

Our instruction is to 'put off' the ungodliness of the old man's ways and 'put on' the new man, which is pleasing to God: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (*Rom. 12:2*) Take 15 min to watch this lesson, it may help: #3 Truth to Go: How to Stop the Ungodly record: <https://youtu.be/Qp1xvKJn8ps>

Transformed into an Angel of Light

In Paul's day, there were false prophets and teachers infiltrating Churches with deceptive ideas. Obviously dishonest workers are usually recognized quickly in the Church. However, Satan is often subtle in how he introduces false doctrine. Satan's wisdom is disguised as Truth. At first, it is small deviations from sound doctrine, often unnoticed.

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." (II Corinthians 11:13-15)

Adding even one work to grace makes it no longer grace: "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work." (*Rom. 11:6*) Today it is common to find false doctrines that have slowly crept into Churches, spreading confusion and disrupting spiritual growth. False teachings can sidetrack, derail, or shipwreck saints. We need to be aware in order to recognize these dangers.

Examples of false instruction in the Church today is teaching that a saint is saved by doing a work, he can lose his salvation, or if someone sins, he was not really saved. There is also the problem of giving others false hope that God will take away problems miraculously, sidetracking believers from trusting the Word's sufficiency; or that prayers are answered if you get enough people to pray or as long as you live godly. Believers need to know sound doctrine so they are not deceived and able to warn others about these deceptions with love.



An Outline of 1 Corinthians

The goal of offering this outline is to make it easier when studying this long book. No doubt there are many ways to break down this epistle. The overall purpose of I Corinthians is application of the foundational doctrine of Romans, dealing with a carnal Church. It has three sections and each chapter deals with various aspects of the topic. Prove all things for yourself!

I. Chapters 1-4: Status of Corinthian Church: Worldly/Carnal

Chapter 1: Caught up in worldly power/wisdom: One of Satan's attacks

Chapter 2: How to gain God's power/wisdom: Be led by Spirit

Chapter 3: Labor brings fruit to glorify God: Paul the master builder

Chapter 4: Submission to God's Minister: Paul's authority

II. Chapters 5-11: Making Godly Judgments to Glorify God

Chapter 5: Glorify God in the local assembly: Live godly/deal with sin

Chapter 6: Glorify God valuing saints/righteousness: His Word guides

Chapter 7: Glorify God in relationships/marriage: Godly judgments

Chapter 8: Glorify God dealing with the weak in grace

Chapter 9: Glorify God by understanding our liberty in ministry

Chapter 10: Glorify God in your body: Israel an ungodly example/warning

Chapter 11: Glorify God in the ordinances within the local assembly

III. Chapters 12-16: Church Manifesting Order and Godly Love

Chapter 12: Gifts given by Godhead for unity: Covet best gifts

Chapter 13: Charity is central: Prepare for change in the 'sign gifts'

Chapter 14: While gifts remain, covet best gifts to edify & follow order

Chapter 15: Attacks on the resurrection and proofs: Our resurrection

Chapter 16: Submission to godly saints and standing fast in the faith

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- *Discovering God's Glorious Treasure*
- *Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools*
- *Letter to the Colossians (New)*

Note: For all Publications the King James Bible is used. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

