



Week #3: Trading Trouble for Hope

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, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

2 Corinthians 1:3-11 (NIV)

How do we trade our troubles for hope?

- _____ a bigger purpose (v.3-7)
- _____ it's too much (v.8)
- _____ on God's strength (v.9)
- _____ in God's faithfulness (v.10)
- _____ help from others (v.11)

Discussion Questions

1. Paul frames his suffering as a way to share Christ's comfort with others. When have you experienced hardship that later allowed you to comfort or encourage someone else?
2. 2 Corinthians 1:8 shows Paul confessing that the pressure was "far beyond our ability to endure." How comfortable are you with admitting when life feels like "too much," and what keeps you from, or draws you toward, that honesty?
3. How does remembering God's past faithfulness shape the way you face your current troubles?
4. This week choose one concrete action to embody mutual comfort (v.11). For example, invite someone into your struggle for prayer support, or intentionally pray with someone who is suffering. Journal how this practice shifts your sense of God's presence and hope.

Recommended Resources

- [Hope When It Hurts, by Kristen Wetherell and Sarah Alton](#)
- [Silence and Beauty: Hidden Faith Born of Suffering, by Makoto Fujimura](#)
- [A Grace Revealed: How God Redeems the Story of Your Life, by Jerry Sittser](#)

(NIV) New International Version

Week #3 Trading Trouble for Hope - FILL

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2 Corinthians 1:3-11 (NIV)

How do we trade our troubles for hope?

- See a bigger purpose (v.3-7)
- Admit it's too much (v.8)
- Depend on God's strength (v.9)
- Trust in God's faithfulness (v.10)
- Receive help from others (v.11)

Discussion Questions

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