

Bible Quiz #34 - Do you see only struggles?

Have you gone through, or maybe you're going through a time of struggle to struggle?

-- These times can lead us to be disappointed in God's handling of our lives.

– Disappointments tend to lead us into doubting. We should be careful when dealing with our calling to follow God, that we do not let any of our life's disappointments affect our trust in Him.

(It helps to remember who is leading and who is following.)

May I suggest the way the Apostle Paul handled such things sets us a wonderful example...

Let's read 2nd Corinthians 11:24-31... (ESV) Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. (25) Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; (26) on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; (27) in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. (28) And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. (29) Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? (30) If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. (31) The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

Q1. Put a check-mark for every suffering Paul endured...

- ☐ – 5X forty lashes ☐ – 3X beaten with rods ☐ – 3X shipwrecked ☐ – endangered by rivers
☐ – in danger of robbery ☐ – hunted by other Jews and Gentiles ☐ – betrayed
☐ – in danger in the wilderness and on the seas ☐ – feeling burdened by work
☐ – suffering sleepless nights ☐ – going hungry or thirsty ☐ – suffering cold exposure
☐ – Worry about other brothers and sisters

-- Of course, this question is designed to illustrate how much the Apostle Paul can testify to suffering...

Q2. From 2nd Corinthians 11:29... Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? -- **Here Paul is asking us to understand...**

- a/ his anxiety over the sufferings of others. b/ his anger at injustice and abuse. c/ both a & b.
(Can we identify with these ourselves?)

Q3. From 2nd Corinthians 11:30... If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. **Why does Paul say this?**

- a/ to brag about how much he's suffered. b/ to show how God understands our weaknesses.
(*"If we must boast", why should we show others our weaknesses?*)

Q4. If you understand, as Paul did, that God knows our weaknesses...

-- **How do you think He reacts to them?**

- a/ He gets frustrated. b/ He gets angry. c/ He is sympathetic and forgiving.

Oswald Chambers proposed that the root of all sin lies in the suspicion that God is not good.

– This doubt shows itself in us when we lose hope, or think our prayers aren't doing any good...

Faith, on the other hand, looks past all our struggling, and trusts that God is with us and working in us, for blessings not for suffering... **In time, who might be blessed by our struggling and suffering?**

(*HINT: It isn't always about us, sometimes God is trying to minister to others.*)

To look into that further, we'll read Philippians 1:3-6... (ESV) I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, (4) always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, (5) because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. (6) And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Q5. Fill in the blanks...

From Vs.6... He who began a good work in you will _____.

- a/ quit and give up. b/ forsake you and leave. c/ bring it to completion

On page #2 we will look at... **What GOOD WORK(S) has God started in you?**