

The Apostle Paul's Troubles

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not in despair;
persecuted, but not abandoned;
struck down, but not destroyed.*

We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

*in great endurance;
in troubles,
hardships and distresses;
in beatings,
imprisonments and riots;
in hard work,
sleepless nights and hunger;*

*...
through glory and dishonor,
bad report and good report;
genuine, yet regarded as impostors;
known, yet regarded as unknown;
dying, and yet **we live on**;
beaten, and yet **not killed**;
sorrowful, yet **always rejoicing**;
poor, yet making **many rich**;
having nothing, and yet **possessing everything**.*

*I have worked much harder,
been in prison more frequently,
been flogged more severely, and
been exposed to death again and again.
Five times I received forty lashes minus one.
Three times I was beaten with rods,
once I was stoned,
three times I was shipwrecked,
I spent a night and a day in the open sea,
I have been constantly on the move.
I have been in danger from rivers,
in danger from bandits,
in danger from my own countrymen,
in danger from Gentiles;
in danger in the city,
in danger in the country,*

Joe Btfsplk from Li'l Abner with a perpetual rain cloud over him.



Paul was not complaining when he said he was a prisoner of Christ Jesus. He was bragging!

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

*in danger at sea; and
in danger from false brothers.
I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep;
I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food;
I have been cold and naked.*

*Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.
Who is weak, and I do not feel weak?
Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?
If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.*

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

*There was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.
Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me,
"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

*Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power
may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake,
I delight*

- *in weaknesses,*
- *in insults,*
- *in hardships,*
- *in persecutions,*
- *in difficulties.*

For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**We know that in all things God works for the good of those
who love him, who have been called according to his
purpose. (Romans 8:28)**

**I can do all things through Christ
who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:19)**

***Not that I speak in respect of want:
for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am,
therewith to be content.* (Philippians 4:11)**

***But we have this treasure in jars of clay
to show that this all-surpassing power
is from God and not from us.* (2 Corinthians 4:7)**