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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's Email Address is Joe@southreno.com

To help us keep our mortal lives in perspective, remember that there are far better things ahead than what we leave behind. —C.S. Lewis



**“Become a *student*—not a *victim*—of affliction.”**

## Are You at Your BREAKING POINT?

### 1. Let it draw you close to the Lord.

**2 Corinthians 1:3–5, NLT** -<sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. <sup>4</sup> He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. <sup>5</sup> For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comforts through Christ.

**2 Corinthians 1:5, NCV** -<sup>5</sup> We share in the many sufferings of Christ. In the same way, much comfort comes to us through Christ.

**2 Corinthians 1:5, TLB** -<sup>5</sup> You can be sure that the more we undergo sufferings for Christ, the more He will shower us with his comfort and encouragement.

**2 Corinthians 1:5, MSG** -<sup>5</sup> We have plenty of hard times that come from following the Messiah, but no more so than the good times of his healing comforts—we get a full measure of that, too.

### 2. Let it equip you to minister to others.

**2 Corinthians 1:3–4, NLT** -<sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. <sup>4</sup> He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

### 3. Let it remind you of your own insufficiency.

**2 Corinthians 1:8–9, NLT** -<sup>8</sup> We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. <sup>9</sup> In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead.

### 4. Let it remind you of God's sufficiency.

**2 Corinthians 1:9–10, TLB** -<sup>9</sup> We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us, for he can even raise the dead. <sup>10</sup> And he did help us and saved us from a terrible death; yes, and we expect him to do it again and again.

### 5. Let it reveal to you the sheer power of prayer.

**2 Corinthians 1:11, NLT** -<sup>11</sup> And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety.

**2 Corinthians 1:11, NIV** -<sup>11</sup> as you help us by your prayers.

## Life Application Section

### When you are at the breaking point.....

#### A. Remember the Source of Your Comfort

The Word “comfort” (used 10 x in these vv; Gk: παρακαλέω, *para-ka-léō*): It points to Christ “coming along side” and “calling us by name.” *Christ is With You!*

#### B. Don't waste your *affliction*.

#### C. Pray—Your prayers matter.

#### D. You have hope only in Christ—not in circumstances!