

WHAT THE TROUBLE REVEALS

March 29, 2020. 2 Corinthians 1:8-11. By Bob Branch
How Shall We Then Live series, part 3

When we are squeezed, what is inside us comes out.

BIG IDEA: When we go through trouble, trials and pressure, God will use it to reveal what is inside us, and mature and heal us.

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 1:8-11

**1. Trials are a _____—even big ones—
and God is still good.**

“We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.” (1:9)

“God won’t give you anything beyond what you can handle”

“Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery [refining] trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.” **1 Peter 4:12** NLT

“Well, God’s in control.”

“We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” **Romans 8:28** ESV

2. Trials _____ what is inside us.

Trials **expose** us. ***Whatever is in us usually comes out when we’re squeezed.***

“But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.” (1:9b)

3. _____ to grow us through them.

“Why me?” or “Why not me?”

Without some discomfort, we’d never change.

“When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives my brothers, don’t resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realize that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed, and you will find you have become men and women of mature character with the right sort of independence.” **James 1:2-4** JBP

Refining silver process.

What is coming to the surface with this COVID-19 heat?

4. P _____ helps.

“you help us by your prayers.” (1:11)