
**PAUL THE APOSTLE:
Greatly Used – Greatly Stressed**

THE GLORY:

Paul: Spirituality Personified

Acts 7:59 – 8:3/ Acts 9:1-31/ Acts 13:9
Romans 8:28/ Philippians 4:13/ Galatians 5:22-23

BEYOND THE GLORY:

Bad Days and Dog Days

1 Cor 16:8-9/ Romans 7:15-25/ 2 Corinthians 7:5-7/ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10/ Acts 16:6-10

His open doors always came with many _____.

He struggled with _____ – and didn't always _____.

He was _____ and _____ – until good news came.

He struggled with _____ – and paid a _____.

He had a hard time figuring out what _____.

The churches he planted were all _____.

TABLE TALK:

Beyond the Clichés

The Truth About A Great Walk With God

Romans 8:35-39/ Hebrews 10:35-37/ 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

❶ Some days it's _____.

❷ When it's tough, _____.

❸ When you struggle – _____.

❹ Remember, you'll _____.

1. Two truths that helped Paul deal with all the difficulties he faced were

- 1) Christ's love for him; and
- 2) God's commitment to use what Paul was going through to develop his character.

How do the following verses show Paul's firm understanding of these two truths?

Romans 5:3-5

Romans 8:28-30

Ephesians 3:16-19

In what ways have these two truths been helpful to you in handling difficult times in your life?

2. David, like Paul, was a leader who faced times of great stress. One high stress incident in his life can be found in **1 Samuel 30:1-20**. How did David respond to this very challenging episode in his life?

What do the following passages (written by David) teach us about finding strength in the Lord?

Psalms 18:1-6

Psalms 27:1-14

Psalms 28:1, 7-8

3. This weekend Larry encouraged us to hang in there when life gets difficult. What attitudes or actions do you find in the following passages that help us to persevere in difficult times?

1 Corinthians 15:58

James 1:12

James 5:10-11

Hebrews 12:1-3

4. **Psalm 77** is a good example of someone who was honest in the midst of a tough situation and yet maintained a focus on God. Use this Psalm as a guide as you write out your own "psalm" about a tough situation you're currently facing. Honestly express your thoughts and emotions to God. Also include a list of the things He has done for you which will help you maintain your focus on Him.

5. Talk to your kids this week about the importance of being who you are - the good, the bad and the ugly. Ask them about how they handle tough days and how to stay on the right path.