

MAKING IT THROUGH

“*I know*” – II Timothy 1:12

PAUL KNEW CHALLENGES

Paul wrote II Timothy while incarcerated (II Timothy 2:9). He was bound and held by chains (II Timothy 1:16; 2:9). This was also not Paul’s first encounter with these types of conditions. His first visit to Philippi provides one example of him experiencing the bitter inside of a Roman jail (Acts 16:12-40). He certainly did not enjoy these times. Paul, who had an advanced degree in the subject, called it suffering (II Timothy 1:12).

HOW PAUL COPED (FINDING GRACE)

Paul coped or found grace, during these challenging times in several ways we will look at here briefly.

- **He believed it was part of his calling.** II Timothy 1:10-12 reveals this. He was "*appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause I also suffer these things.*" Paul had no illusions about why he was undergoing the inhumanities of that jail. He also believed suffering afflictions was an appointment all who live Godly lives should expect to experience - II Timothy 3:12.
- **He believed in the promise of life in Christ Jesus** - II Timothy 2:1 – This included the promise of eternal life.

THINGS PAUL KNEW

Paul had a relationship with God (II Timothy 1:12). Out of that relationship he had acquired knowledge about God. Paul endured suffering because of the knowledge he had acquired about God, which included:

- **God is trustworthy** – Paul said he suffered, "*these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day*" (II Timothy 1:12). At this point, Paul had been through too much and witnessed God do too much, to be able to doubt His plan.
- **God’s Word is powerful and free** – Even as Paul felt the irritating rub of his prison chain, he knew that the Word of God could not be shackled – II Timothy 2:9. No matter how limited his movements were at the moment, the Word of God was at work in the world accomplishing God’s purpose.
- **God knew him** – Even as he languished in that filthy Roman jail, the foundation of his faith, the knowledge he had built his life on, was solid. As Paul fought loneliness and felt forgotten, he knew that the Lord knows those that are his – II Timothy 2:19.

YOU CAN MAKE IT THROUGH

No one welcomes suffering. Especially the kind Paul endured. But he made it through. You can make it through your challenges, brother or sister in Christ. Paul taught us how. Believe and know. It's a winning combination.