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“Pressure & Prevailing”

“...If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)

Pressures Aplenty

2 Corinthians 4:8 – “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;” (NIV)

2 Corinthians 11:26-28 – ²⁶ “...in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸ And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches..”

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 – ⁷ “So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Prevailing through God

Romans 8:36-37 – ³⁶ “As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’ ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

Praying to Prevail

Psalms 60:11-12 – ¹¹ “Oh, grant us help against the foe, for vain is the salvation of man! ¹² With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.”

Psalm 25:2 – “O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.”

Philippians 4:5-7 – ⁵ “...The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Luke 21:34-36 – ³⁴ “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Staying to Prevail

Luke 22:28-29 – ²⁸ “You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom,”

2 Timothy 1:12 – “That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.” (NLT)

Positive Pressure?

Acts 5:40-41 – ⁴⁰ “And when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.”

Psalm 119:67, 71, 75 – ⁶⁷ “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. ⁷¹ It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes. ⁷⁵ I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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