





# 1. The Reality of Life



## God's People Suffer Too

- <sup>NIV</sup> **Habakkuk 3:16** I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Jeremiah 23:9** As for the prophets: My heart is broken within me, All my bones tremble; I have become like a drunken man, Even like a man overcome with wine
- <sup>NIV</sup> **Daniel 8:27** I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.



## Yes, Even in the New Testament

- <sup>ESV</sup> **2 Corinthians 11:23** Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one--I am talking like a madman--with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; <sup>26</sup> on frequent journeys, 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; <sup>27</sup> in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. <sup>28</sup> And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.



## Jesus Too

- <sup>NIV</sup> **John 11:33** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled ... <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.
- <sup>ESV</sup> **Luke 22:41** And he ... prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." ... <sup>44</sup> And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 2:17** Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest ... <sup>18</sup> For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.



## 2. Ideal Christian Living





## God is Faithful

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Corinthians 1:9** God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **2 Thessalonians 3:3** But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.



## Christ has Conquered the World

- <sup>NAS</sup> **John 16:33** "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome [conquered] the world."
- <sup>NIV</sup> **Colossians 2:14** having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 John 4:4** You are from God, little children, and have overcome [conquered] them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.



## God's Grace is Sufficient

- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 12:7** ... there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself! <sup>8</sup> Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup> And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
  - Sufficient = enough, adequate, fully meets the need
    - It's just right.



- <sup>NIV</sup> **Habakkuk 3:16** I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us...<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. <sup>19</sup> The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.



### **3. Practical Christian Living**



## Effective Prayer

- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 5:16** ... The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.



## How often should I pray?

- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Thessalonians 5:17** pray without ceasing;
- <sup>ESV</sup> **Colossians 4:2** Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 12:12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.



## How do I pray?

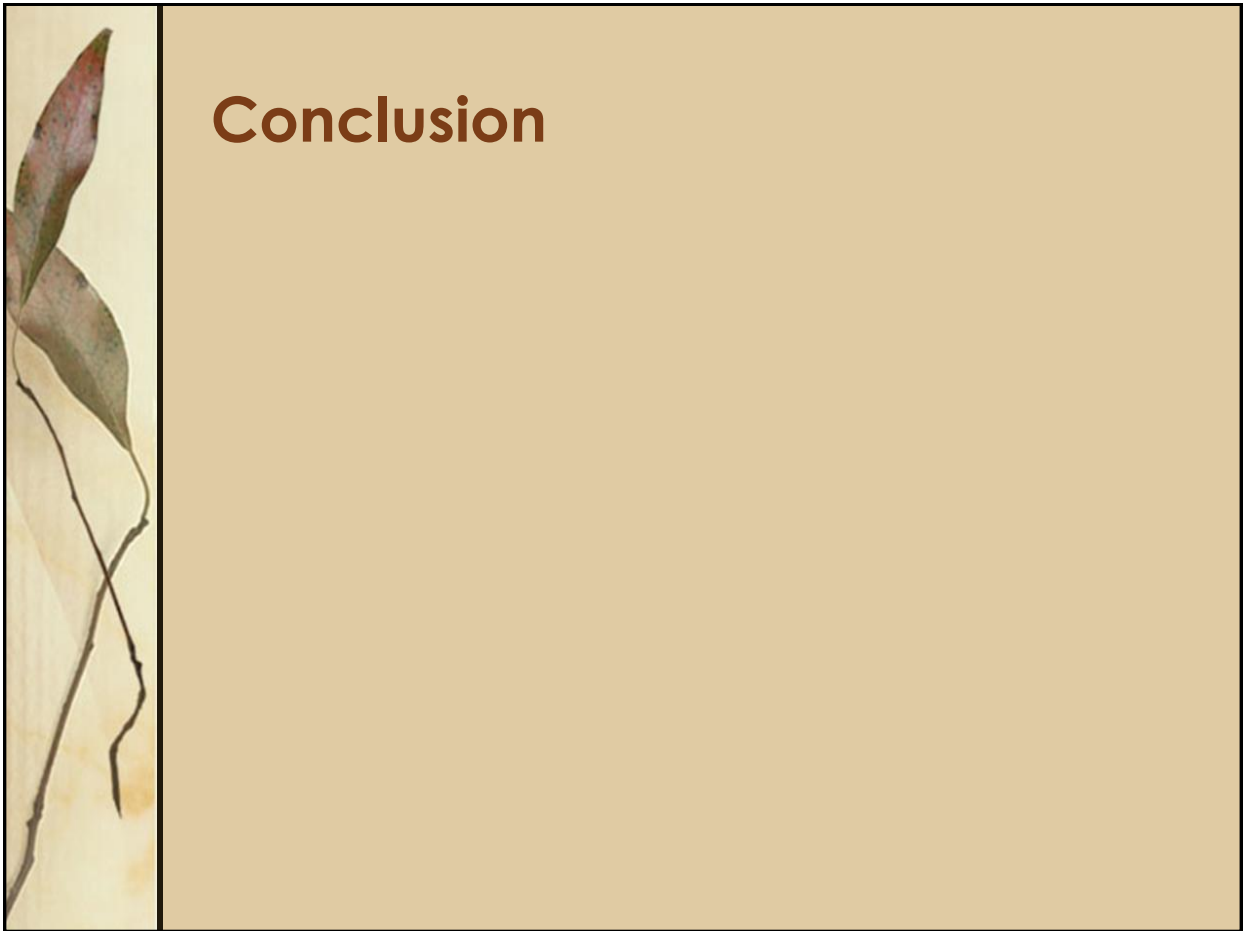
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 8:14** For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Romans 8:26** And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; <sup>27</sup> and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.





## Just Ask

1. <sup>NIV</sup> **Luke 11:1** ... one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, ..." <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "When you pray, say: "'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup> Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. '"
2. Story of loaves (vv. 5-8)
3. <sup>NIV</sup> **Luke 11:9** "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> ... <sup>13</sup> If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"





## God's Grace is Sufficient

- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 12:9** And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.



## God's Grace is Accessible

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 4:14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.



## Seek the Spirit

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Luke 11:13** "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"
- <sup>NIV</sup> **Ephesians 5:18** ... be filled with the Spirit.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Jude 1:20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit;
- <sup>ESV</sup> **Philippians 4:6** do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



## Walk by Faith

- <sup>ESV</sup> **1 John 5:4** For everyone who has been born of God overcomes [conquers] the world. And this is the victory that has overcome [conquered] the world--our faith.
- <sup>ESV</sup> **2 Corinthians 5:7** for we walk by faith, not by sight.