

Yet I stand

There are passages of scripture that are intended to remind us as Christians that this journey we are on will be met with challenges, but we should not be afraid of what lies ahead, because we have what it takes within us to keep pushing on.

Paul writes in **2 Corin. 4:7** - But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

This verse sounds a note of victory in our spirits.

And there are some sister verses like:

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

And

Php 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me.

And

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

If you have lived as long as I have lived, you would know that life is not always fair, that the truth is - bad things do happen to good people.

1. Sometimes Christians have financial problems,
2. Christians like others, get sick,
3. Sometimes as Christians there are personal battles in
 - a. marriage,
 - b. with our health
 - c. at the work place,
 - d. In relationships.

In our text Paul says:

1. I have been troubled on every side,
2. and perplexed,
3. persecuted and
4. knocked down,

But he also says:

1. Not Distressed,
2. not in despair,
3. not forsaken,
4. not destroyed.

...Because I stand

But the truth is, there is a perception out there that as Christians we should not be affected and afflicted by the same elements that affect other people:

'Triumphalism' – the idea that Christians should always be consciously and visibly 'on top', and freed from every ill. But this is unknown in scripture!

Because nowhere are we promised an easy ride on this journey.

In fact, quite the contrary. We are promised tribulation. But we are also promised the presence of God - He will walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death...

'Interventionism' – the idea that it is always the Lord's will to intervene and change difficult situation in our favour.

But God is more concerned about changing us.

Isa 54:17 says - No weapon that is formed against you shall be able to prosper.

The bible did not say that:

1. Evil would not form weapons against us,
2. or that evil would not be launched against us,
3. or that they would not touch us.

But what the bible does say is: It shall not prosper; it shall not accomplish it's intended purpose.

Paul reminds us in Rom 8: 28 - **that all things, work together for good to them who love the Lord and are the called according to his purpose.**

So it doesn't matter who you are or how spiritual you are, at some point life is going to deal you a blow.

Unexpected undesired situations and problems may catch you off guard, and send your life into a spin.

But the good news is, that even though we all will at some point encounter these unexpected, attacks, problems, and circumstances.

We have the promise:

The Word of God says in 2Co 2:14 - Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place.

The prophet Isaiah in 59:19 says, "So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him."

So today for the person who may be going through something

1. You may feel knocked down
2. life has thrown you an unexpected curve ball with:

3. Family situation,
 4. Sickness,
 5. A Financial situation,
 6. Your child is on drugs or in some situation,
 7. Or in one way or another, your dream has been crushed
- **Keep standing - because its not over yet!**

I cannot say that you will never be knocked down

I cannot say that you will never be caught off guard

I cannot say that you will never be troubled or perplexed or even forsaken,

but I can say – still trust God. Still stand!

1. **I can say**: Nothing shall separate you from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
2. **I can say** like Paul in **2Tim 1:12** - I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day.
3. **I can say** like Paul in **Ro 8:28** – And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Somebody this morning hearing this message needs to know it ain't over, so keep standing!

1. You may have been knocked down
2. You may be tempted to give up and give in
3. You may be taunted by those around you who you once considered friends
4. You may feel like you are in a desolate place because you feel alone -

But get ready to start:

1. a new round of this fight
2. a new chapter in your life
3. a redefined purpose
4. Because you have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from you

So Paul reminds us in Eph. 6: 10, Be strong in the Lord, strengthened by His mighty power ... Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil ... against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm..." (Eph.6:10-20)

So I want to prophesy in somebody's life for:

1. new strength,
2. new anointing,
3. new faith.
4. a new chapter in your life.

Because its not over

In fact, the next phase of your life is just getting started...

The song writer says, Its so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word, just to rest upon his promise, just to know thus says the Lord...

I want to encourage someone this morning to

- a. keep standing
- b. Keep trusting
- c. Keep believing

Because God is not done with you yet!