

Advancing Through Adversity

September Sermon Series

“In times of adversity and change, we really discover who we are and what we’re made of.”

Experiencing Success Through Adversity

Lesson One

The background is a teal mosaic of irregular, overlapping shapes in various shades of teal and light blue, creating a textured, geometric pattern.

Growing Closer to God Through Adversity

Lesson Two

Adversity can be defined as "opposition, hostility, misfortune, hardship," an event, or series of events, which oppose success or desire; misfortune; calamity; affliction; distress; state of unhappiness.

Adversity is described as a very difficult or unfavorable situation.



Scripture Lesson
II Corinthians 11:23-28

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. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. 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;

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; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

The Apostle Paul's Forms of Adversity:

**Imprisonments, beatings, shipwrecks,
exposure, hunger, thirst, and other
dangers.**

All Adversity Is Not Harmful.



Six Aspects of Adversity:

1. Adversity is Widespread.

2. It is Nonpartisan.

3. Adversity is Unpleasant.

**4. Sometimes Adversity
Comes Unexpectedly.**

**5. Times of Adversity May
Be Lengthy.**

6. Adversity Is Often Beyond Our Control.



**Two Primary Questions Most
Asked:
Who? and Why?**

Five Responses to Adversity:



1. Pointing the Finger

2. Take flight



3. Denial



4. Self-pity



5. Seeking the Lord

Four Keystones to Help Us Grow Through Adversity:



**:"Life is 10% what happens to
you and 90% how you react to
it."**



**1. Adversity is one of God's
most effective tools for
strengthening our faith.**

“Adversity is not simply a tool. It is God's most effective tool for the advancement of our spiritual lives. The circumstances and events that we see as setbacks are oftentimes the very things that launch us into periods of intense spiritual growth. Once we begin to understand this, and accept it as a spiritual fact of life, adversity becomes easier to bear.”

**1 Peter 5:10, And the God of all grace,
who called you to His eternal glory in
Christ, after you have suffered a little
while, will Himself restore you and
make you strong, firm and steadfast.**

**2. The Lord allows
adversity to help us, not
to hurt us.**

**II Cor.12:10, That is why, for
Christ's sake, I delight in
weaknesses, in insults, in
hardships, in persecutions, in
difficulties. For when I am weak,
then I am strong.**

“Opposition is not only evidence that God is blessing, but it is also an opportunity for us to grow.”

3. God is always with us.



**Hebrews 13:5, Keep your lives free
from the love of money and be
content with what you have,
because God has said, "Never will I
leave you; never will I forsake you.**

**4. Adversity can be a
precious gift from the Lord.**

**Whenever there is growth
required, there will always be an
element of stretching, pain, or
adversity.**



**“The bumps are what you climb
on.”**



**The greatest adversity led to
the greatest redemption.**

John 3:16, For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Isaiah 53:5, But He was wounded for our transgression, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.
