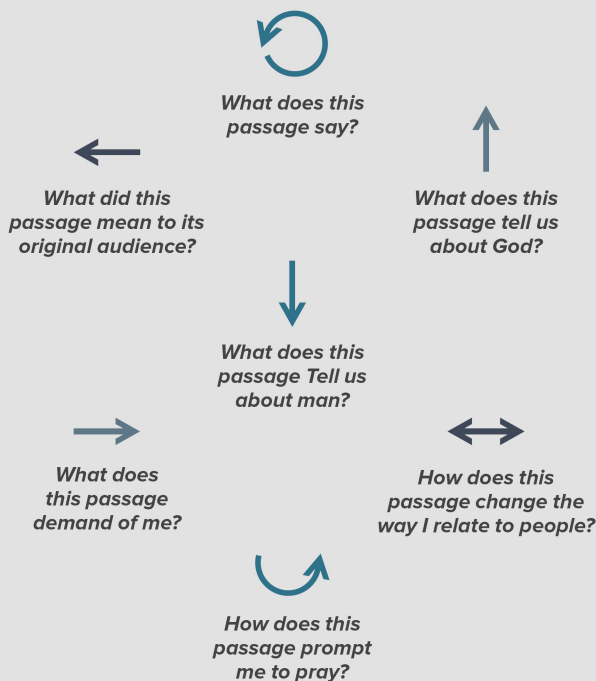


# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One

## 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3

Because we live in a world cursed by sin, we will experience sorrow and suffering. Thankfully, God has promised to offer comfort to His people (Isa. 40:1; 51:3, 12; 66:13). When he wrote this letter to the Corinthian church, Paul spoke from experience—he suffered in the worst ways (2 Cor. 11:23-29), yet through it all, he experienced God’s comfort. We may be tempted to think of comfort as a kind person’s speaking soft, gentle words, or offering some sort of help to ease the pain. But this isn’t what Paul means. In this verse, comfort is related to the idea of “helper,” and speaks specifically to God’s entering into our experience, coming alongside us to share in our experiences, and rescuing us from suffering. A pain pill may offer comfort in relieving the pain of a headache, but Jesus coming to earth—and that the Spirit is here with us today—offers an altogether different kind of comfort.

➤ Where do you generally turn for comfort?

➤ How is the comfort Jesus offers different from anything the world has to offer?

## Day Two

# 2 CORINTHIANS 1:4



When we face overwhelming struggles, it's often easy for us to focus on ourselves, ignoring everything else that's going on around us. We may even think, *no one else knows what I'm going through!* However, if we fall into this kind of thinking, we've missed the point. Jesus came not to be served, but to serve—even in His suffering. When we suffer, we are to look for the ways God comforts us, and in turn, to extend that same comfort to others. Everyone struggles. It's just that sometimes we're not aware of it because we're focused on ourselves. If we'll simply pay attention, God will use us to minister to others, and we'll often find that God blesses us, as well.

➤ **When are you tempted to become self-focused?**

➤ **What lessons have you learned in times of struggle that you can use to comfort others?**

## Day Three

# 2 CORINTHIANS 1:5

Jesus said that because the world hated Him, it will hate us, too (John 15:20). Jesus suffered because the world hated Him, and we should expect that same kind of suffering to overflow into our lives. This may seem like bad news, and in a certain sense, it is. After all, it's appropriate to grieve the effects of sin in our lives. However, it's not all bad news. For one, we can know that, when we face difficult things, God uses it to help us mature, shaping us more closely into the image of Christ. Further, God has promised that, when we share in Jesus' sufferings, we will also experience the comfort of Christ overflowing into our lives. We may be tempted to shy away from suffering, even if it means falling into sin. Let's remember, to receive the comfort of the world ultimately ends in missing God's blessings. However, if we are willing to suffer for the sake of the gospel, we will receive the comfort of Jesus—which is far better!

➤ **What are some of the comforts the world offers?**

➤ **How does the comfort of Christ compare?**

## Day Four

# 2 CORINTHIANS 1:6

Paul was willing to go to great lengths to carry the gospel to people who needed to hear it. Sometimes, this mission involved his facing great danger, rejection, and suffering. At times, it was overwhelming. Still, Paul was committed to fulfilling the mission of Jesus and doing his part to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. If he suffered (and he did), it was so the lost would receive the comfort for their sins that only Jesus can offer—salvation! We are called to be a part of this same mission. When we share the gospel with our lost friends, we may worry about being rejected or feeling embarrassed. Still, we need to keep in mind the suffering Jesus endured so we could be saved, and we need to continually share the gospel, willing to suffer, so others will know the grace of God in their lives.

➤ **When have you suffered for sharing the gospel?**

➤ **What keeps you from sharing more?**

## Day Five

# 2 CORINTHIANS 1:7



Hope refers specifically to the confident expectation that God will fulfill His promises. Here, Paul said that he had a firm hope for the Corinthian church because they'd proven their faith was real in their willingness to suffer for Christ. They lived in a culture where following Jesus wasn't popular. Still, they refused to turn away from Christ. The world promised comfort and relief, if only they would choose to live the world's way. But the Corinthians knew the promises of God were far better. They certainly suffered for their faith, but they received the comfort of Christ with their choices. This is what it means to be a follower of Christ, and the only way to have a firm hope for eternity.

➤ **What gives you a confident expectation about eternity?**

➤ **What changes do you need to make in your life so your hope is more confident?**