

## **Weak yet Strong (Studies in 2 Corinthians)**

**Read: 2 Peter 3:16; 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; Acts 18;**

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lfPK2vfC54>

1. From Paul's letters, what do we know about the church at Corinth? Would you be happy to become a member of this church?
2. In a sentence or two, how would you summarise 2 Corinthians? [Don't be afraid to look up a Study Bible or Bible Dictionary or even Wikipedia!!]
3. Steve likened our reading of NT letters (including 2 Corinthians) to listening to one side of a telephone conversation. What point was Steve making? Did you find that illustration helpful?
4. Read 2 Cor. 1-11. What did Steve mean when he referred to Paul's greeting of 'grace and truth' as the cause and effect of the spiritual world? In which ways do some people attempt to gain the effect without the cause?
5. "The Holy Spirit cannot be the Comforter to the comfortable!" Discuss.
6. What words does Paul use in v3-11 to describe his sufferings?
7. Sir Winston Churchill once said, 'The pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; the optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.' By this definition, Paul was obviously an optimist. What positives does Paul see in his suffering (v3-11)
8. Have you experienced God's grace and comfort in very difficult circumstances? Please share with your group of such an instance.
9. Read v3-4. Paul says that God will use our experience of God's comfort to comfort others. Please share of a time that God has used some trial/trouble/suffering in your life to help someone else experiencing the same.
10. "Our mess of yesterday can become our message today; our test can become our testimony; and our misery can become our ministry!" Thoughts?
11. In which ways have you witnesses some hardship produce patient endurance in your life (v6)?
12. "All sunshine makes a desert!" (Arabia proverb). Thoughts?
13. v10 "But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead." Can you remember one specific example of this being true in your life?