

“The Best of Times...The Worst of Times Part 5”

II Corinthians 1:3-11
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
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If the worst of times are to become the best of times...

1. Look to God for comfort. (verses 3-5)

“Your most profound and intimate experiences of worship will likely be in your darkest days.”

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Zondervan,
Grand Rapids Michigan, 2002, p. 194.

2. Find hope and purpose in knowing God will use your pain and suffering to help others. (verses 4, 6)

3. Be honest with yourself and others about your pain and suffering. (verses 8-9)

4. Rely on God rather than yourself. (verse 9)

“God has never been impressed with strength or self-sufficiency. In fact, he is drawn to people who are weak and admit it. Jesus regarded this recognition of our need as being ‘*poor in spirit*.’ It’s the number one attitude he blesses.”

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Zondervan,
Grand Rapids Michigan, 2002, p. 273.

“You know, the weight of trying to make yourself out to be bigger than you are—of trying to figure out how to run your life on your own, of always trying to determine the outcome, control the relationship, close the deal, run the show, hold it all together, know the future, protect your interest, build your kingdom—the weight of playing the role of God in your life and the lives of those around you.”

Louie Giglio, *I Am Not But I Know I Am*, Multnomah Publishers,
Sisters, Oregon, 2005, p. 124.

5. **Set your hope on God. (verse 10, Psalm 33:16-22)**

6. **Allow others to come alongside of you and pray for you. (verses 7, 11)**

“Vulnerability is an endearing quality; we are naturally drawn to humble people.”

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids Michigan, 2002, p. 276.

“Our strengths create competition, but our weaknesses create community.”

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids Michigan, 2002, p. 277.