

## A Bend In The Road

Series: When Your World Falls Apart

Selected Scriptures

Bro. Ken Culver

### I. Introduction

“Disruptive moments are those unanticipated events, most of which, one would usually have chosen to avoid had it been possible. We don’t like disruptive moments; they are too often associated with pain and inconvenience, failure and humiliation. Not that they have to be, but that seems the way of human condition.” — Gordon MacDonald (*The Life God Blesses*, 1995)

### II. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

*7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

#### A. The Purpose of The Disruptive Moment

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#### B. The Pain of The Disruptive Moment

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*15 What[a] then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me. Galatians 4:15*

#### C. The Provision In The Disruptive Moment

*“...grace is sufficient... strength is made perfect.” 2 Corinthians 12:9*

#### D. The Product of The Disruptive Moment

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#### E. The Perspective of The Disruptive Moment

*9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:9*

### III. Hebrews 12:5-11

*5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:  
“My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,  
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

*6*

*For whom the Lord loves He chastens,  
And scourges every son whom He receives.” [a]*

*7 If [b] you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:5-11*

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#### 1. We Can Despise The Moment And Rail Against It

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Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; Hebrews 12:5*

#### 2. We Can Become Discouraged By The Event, Lose Heart And Give Up

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“My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,  
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; Hebrews 12:5*

#### 3. We Can Endure It And Be Trained By The Disruptive Moment

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*11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11*

#### IV. Principles To Remember In Disruptive Moments

##### A. Disruptive Moments Are Often Divine Appointments

Zechariah 2:8 - “apple of His eye.”

Isaiah 59:19 - “enemy comes in like a flood.”

Isaiah 43:4 - “We are precious in His sight.”

Philippians 4:19 - “Limitless resources to meet our needs.”

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 - “Everlasting consolation”

Psalms 37:1, 6 - “A defense against our enemies.”

##### B. Progress Without Pain Is Not Possible

*“Storms (disruptive moments) always leave us with a list of things to clean up and fix. They are times when God restores to us the things we lose through negligence, ignorance, rebellion, or sin. For the Christian, storms are a no-lose proposition. They help us see and acknowledge the loose shutters, missing shingles, and rotten fence posts in our lives while turning us back to the only One who can make the necessary repairs.” - Ron Mehl (Surprising Endings, 1993)*

##### C. The Promise of God Is The Provision of Grace

Testimony: “Never have I sensed the closeness and provision of God as I did when I went around that unexpected bend in the road.”

##### D. Disruptive Moments Produce Dynamic Growth

Botanists tell us that plants grow more during times of stormy weather than during peaceful, warm days — their roots actually dig down deeper when the strong winds blow. Then when the calm days return, the new roots provide a deeper foundation for the new growth. That is the way it should be with us.

##### E. What We Receive From Disruptive Moments Depends Upon How We Respond

The right question is never, “Why God?” It is always, “What, Lord? What do You want to teach me through the disruptive moments? Take me around and through the bend in the road as my teacher. Don’t let me miss anything that You want me to see and learn.”