

MARINERS CHURCH

THIS
CHANGES
EVERYTHING

We are More Resilient Than
We Thought
May 9, 2021

Since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up. 2 Corinthians 4:1 (NLT)

Difficulties REVEAL where we place our trust

It's in our weakness God works

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:7-10 (NLT)

Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (NLT)

Challenges Grow Us.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4 (NIV)

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are



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small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 (NLT)

Nothing is Wasted

For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6 (NLT)

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28 (NLT)

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done. Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

Talk it Over! For my thoughts and LifeGroup*

Share one of your strengths and one weakness with the group. Which one was easier to think of?

Like us, the apostle Paul also faced countless challenges in his life. Read 2 Corinthians 1:8. Call out some of the unique hardships of this pandemic year that you thought might overwhelm you.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-18 In what ways are we like the "jars of clay," that Paul describes in 7-10? What is the treasure we carry?

How do your weaknesses or your personal challenges allow God to reveal God's power?

Why does Paul tell us not to lose heart? (v.16) On what does he base his confidence?

In what ways have you experienced God's power this year help you to have resilience in the face of challenges? OR What encouragement does this passage give you for overcoming weaknesses or challenges?

*A LifeGroup is a group of people who are committed to loving each other and growing through times like these. For more information, connect with Pastor Len at len@marinerscc.org