

A window with a grid pattern, showing raindrops on the glass and a view of green trees outside. The text "When the Rains Come" is overlaid on the right side of the window.

# When the Rains Come

A study of 2 Corinthians





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...the relationship between

*'suffering'*

and

*'the power of the Spirit' ...*

***in the midst of moral, societal and  
interpersonal conflict***

## Matthew 28:18-20

As devoted followers of Jesus...  
we look at the Scriptures for what it tells us  
about...

What is true about God?

What is true about us?

What are we instructed to obey?

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we look at the Scriptures for what it tells us  
about...

What is true about God?  
**Based on understanding who He is...**

What is true about us?  
**based on understanding who we are...**

What are we instructed to obey?  
**this is how life really works!**

# II Corinthians 1:3-11

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the character of God and it's implications  
for our character and the life He has called us to:*



# II Corinthians 1:3-11

*The umbrella statement of this letter revealing the character of God and it's implications for our character and the life He has called us to:*

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,**
- 4 who comforts us in all our afflictions, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

# II Corinthians 4:1-18

- 1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.
- 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God
- 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing.

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# II Corinthians 4:1-18

- 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.
- 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

# II Corinthians 4:1-18

- 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.
- 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair
- 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;
- 10 always carrying in the body of death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

# *God's Triumphant in Our Mission*

Us:

Afflicted in every way

God does not allow us to be:

Crushed

...even when the rains come!!!

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# *God's Triumphant in Our Mission*

Us:

**Afflicted in every way**

**Perplexed**

**Persecuted**

God does not allow us to be:

**Crushed**

**Despaired**

**Forsaken**

*...even when the rains come!!!*



# ***God's Triumphant in Our Mission***

**Us:**

**Afflicted in every way**

**Perplexed**

**Persecuted**

**Struck Down**

**God does not allow us to be:**

**Crushed**

**Despaired**

**Forsaken**

**Destroyed**

*...even when the rains come!!!*

# II Corinthians 4:1-18

- 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.
- 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.
- 13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak,
- 14 Knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you in his presence.

# *Our Suffering in God's Mission*

Us:

Suffering in the body

Given over to death

Incessant suffering

God's Purpose:

Jesus' risen power manifested

Jesus' risen power manifested

Life to others

...even when the rains come!!!

# II Corinthians 4:1-18

- 15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.
- 16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,
- 17 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

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# The Inverse Equation

Mortal Bodies  
Wasting Away



Spiritual  
Resilience

*...even when the rains come!!!*





...even when the rains come!!!

When the Rains Come

# What's your response?

- How do I proclaim the treasure, while not focusing on the jar?
- How is God renewing me day by day in the midst of my suffering?

...even when the rains come!!!