

SPECIAL WORDS FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE: OFFERING GRACE TO THE WEARY

UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY OF SUFFERING

2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11



The Heart of the Matter

The Bible is full of mysteries: the “mystery” God revealed to Daniel (Daniel 2:17–19); the “mystery” of God’s hidden wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:6–8); the “mystery” of future events (1 Corinthians 15:51–52); the “mystery of His will” (Ephesians 1:9); the “great mystery” of Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:32 NLT); the “mystery of lawlessness” currently at work (2 Thessalonians 2:7). And though it isn’t specifically called one in the Bible, suffering is indeed a profound mystery. Paul’s words will help us unravel the mysterious subject of suffering.



Discovering the Way

1. Suffering: Understanding Its Reality

When in the midst of suffering, songs and poems don’t help, and solutions and answers don’t come easily.

2. Suffering: Unraveling Its Mystery (2 Corinthians 1:1–11)

Paul was a man well acquainted with suffering. After he provided warm words of introduction (1:1–2), Paul provided wise words of explanation for those who suffer (1:3–11).

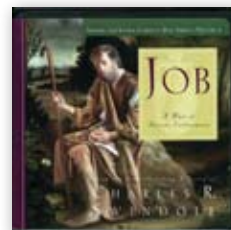


Starting Your Journey

How do we handle the perplexities of suffering? First, instead of only focusing on yourself now, think of the benefits to others later. Second, rather than fighting, surrender; rather than resisting, release. Third, even though getting even seems to make sense, try giving thanks.

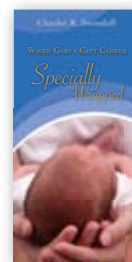


Tools for Digging Deeper



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