

2 Corinthians 11–12

Enduring Trials with Faith in Christ

Even the most faithful disciples of Jesus Christ endure hardship in their lives. Paul shared some of the suffering he endured and how he was able to find joy in those experiences through the Savior's help. This lesson can help you rely on the Lord as you strive to faithfully endure your own challenges.

Life's trials

- What do you think is the purpose of the thorns on a rose bush?

In life, we have many wonderful experiences that can be compared with a rose. However, we also face trials and challenges that could be compared with the thorns.

- What are some trials and challenges that people may face in life?

- What thoughts and questions might people ask about God as they experience trials? What might they wonder about themselves?

As you study today, look for truths that can help you faithfully endure trials that God, in His love and wisdom, chooses not to remove. Ponder why you need God's help as you endure them.

Paul's trials

Read [2 Corinthians 11:24–28](#), looking for some of the trials Paul endured during his ministry.

- What other examples can you think of from the scriptures or from Church history that show that even the righteous suffer difficulties? How is the Savior's life proof of this?

- Why do you think Heavenly Father allows faithful disciples of Jesus Christ to endure so much?

Although God blessed Paul with wonderful revelations, including a vision of the celestial kingdom (see [2 Corinthians 12:1–4](#)), Paul still had to endure trials and tests of his faith. Read [2 Corinthians 12:7](#) to see what Paul compared one of his ongoing trials to.

- How could “a thorn in the flesh” be a good description of some personal trials?

- What comparison might you use to describe a specific trial that you or your loved ones have endured? Why?

Read [2 Corinthians 12:8–10](#) to see Paul’s experience praying for his “thorn in the flesh” to be removed. As you read, keep in mind that the word *grace* means “divine help or strength ... given through the mercy and love of God” (Guide to the Scriptures, “[Grace](#),” scriptures.ChurchofJesusChrist.org; see also [Ether 12:27](#)).

One truth we can learn from Paul’s experience is that **the Lord may not always remove our challenges, but we can be strengthened by His grace as we endure them faithfully.**

- How do you see this truth evident in the Savior’s life? (see [Luke 22:41–44](#)).

Find and read at least one scripture account that shows how the Lord can bless those who endure trials with faith in Him. (Following are suggestions of accounts you might choose.)

- [Doctrine and Covenants 121:1–8; 122:7–9](#). (Joseph Smith prayed as he was suffering in Liberty Jail.)
- [Mosiah 24:8–15](#). (Alma’s people were captives of the Lamanites and were ruled over by the wicked priest Amulon.)

1. Answer the following questions:

- What did you learn about the Lord and what He offers to those who endure trials faithfully?

- Which of His blessings do you most need as you endure your trials? Why?

- Who do you personally know who has endured a challenge faithfully? What did they do to endure faithfully? How have you seen the Lord's grace help them?

- What do you think the Savior would have you do to faithfully endure your trials?

- What did you learn about enduring trials with faith in Jesus Christ?

2. Complete the following:

Based on what you learned and felt as you studied [2 Corinthians 12](#) today, add to or rewrite the following statement to make it more accurate.

"If we pray with sufficient faith in Jesus Christ, Heavenly Father will remove any trial that we are going through."
