



LIVING IN LIMBO LAND

Living in limbo land #2
The purpose of the new normal
2 Corinthians 12:7-10

What do you do when there's nothing you can do?
Three lies:

1. I'll never be _____ again.
2. Nothing _____ can come from this.
3. There's not any _____ in continuing.

God is not _____, God is not _____,
and God is not _____.

1. Paul's _____.
'But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.' Acts 8:3 NIV

2. Paul's _____.
'Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me.'
2 Corinthians 12:7 NIV

'Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.'
2 Corinthians 12:8 NIV

'But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that Christ's power may rest on me.' 2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

**Embracing your _____ is a necessary
condition to experiencing Christ _____.**

'That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.' 2 Corinthians 12:10 NIV

3. Paul's _____.
'In order to... I was given a thorn in my flesh.' 2 Corinthians 12:7 NIV

**You have the option to receive whatever it is you're dealing
with as a gift with a _____ and
a _____.**

'My grace is sufficient for you.' 2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

'He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."' Luke 22:41-42 NIV

Watch us on



Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to
www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch.



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

Each week we will produce the Talk It Over sermon discussion questions, as we would do normally. But as these aren't normal times, we encourage you to use the Talk It Over sermon discussion questions in a different way. Here are some suggestions:

- Immediately after the online experience has ended, grab a cuppa and then sit and discuss the questions with your husband/wife/family. If you are on your own, arrange to ring another person and chat through the questions over the phone or Skype etc.
- If you are able, meet virtually as a small group through the various free online conference resources such as Microsoft teams, Skype, Zoom etc.
- Personally, take some time through the week to quietly reflect and go through the questions on your own and apply the message to your life.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think people assume that faith in God will remove adversity from life? Have you ever made that assumption? If so, how did it influence your relationship with God?
2. Talk about a time when you or someone you knew faced difficult circumstances and God was silent. How did that experience affect your faith in the short term? How did it affect your faith in the long term?
3. Is it difficult for you to accept that challenging circumstances can come from the hand of a loving God? Why or why not?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7–10. What would it look like for you to “delight in weakness” for the sake of Jesus? How would it change the way you respond to adversity?
5. Do you feel permission to plead with God to take away your difficult circumstances? Do you believe he responds to that kind of prayer? Why or why not?
6. What is the “thorn in your side,” the ongoing struggle or challenge that you can't change and about which you need to accept God's grace in order to move forward?
7. What can you do to begin to view that “thorn” as a gift that comes with a purpose and a promise from your heavenly Father? How can other Christians support you?