



Real Life Ministry ~ 2 Corinthians 1:8-11
January 25, 2026

next week: 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4

Questions for the Community

What does the Bible say? (goal: go slow, notice the text, let God speak for Himself in the words of His book)

1. Read our passage out loud, together. What words stand out? Notice the language Paul uses to describe his past experiences.
2. What does Paul say the experience did *to* him emotionally and spiritually?
3. What is said *about* God and what is God *doing* in this passage?

What does it mean? (goal: get to the heart of the text by understanding what Paul is teaching then and how it relates to now)

4. The sermon emphasized this central truth: "Real life ministry is painful, so it requires vulnerability." Why did Paul share so openly instead of projecting stoic strength?
5. What are the 4 ways Paul was vulnerable? What do each teach us about the connection between need / spiritual growth / God's activity in our life?
6. How is Paul different from other leaders of his day by starting this letter off with such open sharing of weakness? How does this mimic Jesus' own leadership in our lives?
7. How does Paul's honesty reshape our understanding of strength and leadership in the church? (notice his foundation and hope)

What do I do? (goal: move from understanding to faithful, obedient lived response; this is sometimes plain and sometimes requires listening in prayer)

8. When life gets painful or you experience need, what is your most common reaction? (self-reliance, withdrawal, image management, asking for help, medicating, denying...)
9. How might God be able to use your past pain to help others? Are you willing to submit even those experiences to God for his kingdom purposes?
10. Is there an area God may be inviting you to rely less on yourself and more on Him? Is there a way for you to grow in
11. What would it look like to take one small step toward vulnerability this week? Who do you know that is strong in this area and might be able to help coach you?
12. Who are you able to call to 'get under the heavy burden and help' in prayer? Are you that person for someone else?