

## The “Tenses” of Deliverance

### 2 Corinthians 1:10

#### Introduction

1. Experience is a great teacher, but not just for the one it touches directly. Our own experiences as well as those of others bless us with knowledge for the present and future.
  2. Paul wrote of the teacher of experience in trials, and how it aided him, and in turn aided others – **2 Corinthians 1:3-7**
  3. The next section of verses represents Paul’s practical exercise of the truths espoused – **2 Corinthians 1:8-11**
    - a. Notice the tenses **(v. 10)** – **“who DELIVERED us...and DOES DELIVER us...He WILL STILL DELIVER us...”**
    - b. Paul’s past and present granted him confidence for the future.
    - c. Not only that, it granted confidence to the Corinthians who read about it, and us as well.
  4. As we remember how God has delivered us in the past, and observe how He is doing so in the present, we will be equipped with hope that He will do so in the future.
- I. From Trial
- A. Remembrance – He Delivered Us
    - a. Thoughts of the past, both in the broad historical context, as well as in our individual lives, bring confidence for the future – **Psalm 145:4-7, 14-21** – past, present, and future.
    - b. **2 Peter 2:4-9** – describing the just end of the false teachers, Peter simultaneously gives comfort to the faithful for deliverance.
      - i. **(v. 5)** – saved Noah.
      - ii. **(v. 7)** – delivered Lot
      - iii. **(v. 9)** – knows how to deliver godly out of temptations **(“trial,” LSB)**
    - c. **Romans 15:3-4, 7-9** – God produces patience for difficulty through the record of scripture.
      - i. **(v. 3)** – quoting **Psalm 69:9** concerning the Messiah.
      - ii. **(vv. 7-9)** – those trials of reproach led to fulfillment of promises.
      - iii. God delivered Him – **“For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.” (Psalm 16:10)**
      - iv. Scriptures contain so many records that lead to our patience and comfort due to past deliverances by God.
  - B. Observation – He Does Deliver Us

- a. Though confidence of deliverance comes through remembering the past, it can be difficult in current trials to see that He is delivering us.
    - i. This may require deeper reflection on those past deliverances in relation to our current circumstances.
    - ii. This will allow us to see the nature of His deliverance – not immediate, not a preservation from all difficulty, not necessarily in the form we may crave.
  - b. Not consumed – **Lamentations 3:22-24** – the Lord is near and is a constant for those who hope in Him.
  - c. Content – **1 Timothy 6:6-8** – God, food, clothing.
  - d. Sufficient grace – **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** – is His present deliverance involving a deeper goal.
    - i. Would I count it deliverance if God took the thorn away?
    - ii. Would I then be delivered from a greater trial, or would I suffer more because of it?
  - e. Spiritual transformation – **Romans 5:3-5** – Perhaps we should measure current deliverance, not by the ease or cessation of the trial, but of how we’re growing through it in an eternal way.
- C. Hope – He Will Deliver Us
- a. Satan is seeking ways to break us down – **1 Peter 5:8; Job 1:6-8** – trials are one of the many ways he does so.
  - b. These trials will pass, but they will be followed by more. The fact that we have been delivered, and are being delivered, grants that God will deliver us from any future trial as well.
  - c. Paul knew this, and took comfort in it – **2 Timothy 4:14-18**
- II. From Spiritual Death
- A. Remembrance – He Delivered Us
- a. God has blessed us with a fixed point in the past concerning initial spiritual deliverance to recall for renewed focus and confidence for the present and future battles.
    - i. **Ephesians 2:4-6** – we were dead, and He raised us up with Christ.
    - ii. **Romans 6:3-5** – our baptism united us with His death AND His resurrection – (**v. 14** – we don’t have to live under sin’s dominion anymore)
    - iii. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** – WERE – such a powerful tense.
  - b. The Exodus always stood as a reminder for the people of God – **Psalm 114** – Exodus, power of God in deliverance, provision, promised land.

- c. Our Exodus still does today – **1 Corinthians 10:1-5, 12-13** – they were saved as you were, but they fell, you take heed.
  - i. **(v. 13)** – past deliverance/salvation equips us with confidence for the present and future.
- B. Observation – He Does Deliver Us
  - a. The need to remember that He delivered us implies the reality that we need deliverance currently – **1 Corinthians 10:12**
  - b. He does deliver us now, but only as we are aware of His activity, and we embrace it:
    - i. Awareness of the struggle through God’s revelation – **Ephesians 6:10-13 (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:7)**
    - ii. Current combat of error through growth in knowledge – **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**
    - iii. Current combat of sin through fellowship with God – **Proverbs 6:16; Psalm 139:21-22**
    - iv. Current strength and protection with brethren – **Hebrews 10:24-25**
    - v. Current meditation on what is good – **Philippians 4:8-9**
  - c. Knowing the devil is currently battling against us can be overwhelming until we know how God delivers us, and that He does deliver us as we engage with Him.
- C. Hope – He Will Deliver Us
  - a. What lies ahead – worldly influence, temptation of all that is in the world, failure.
  - b. However, the past and present deliverances, from our baptism, to the times we overcame, and the times we failed but were delivered by God’s grace, to the current strength provided in Him, we know He will deliver us.
  - c. God is faithful and just to forgive – **1 John 1:9; 2:1-2**
  - d. God is able – **Jude 24-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**
  - e. Christ will not lose us – **John 6:37-40; 10:27-29** – He will deliver us if we let Him.

### Conclusion

1. God HAS DELIVERED us, IS DELIVERING us, and WILL DELIVER us.
2. What a blessing to serve such a powerful and faithful God!