

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

**Why do bad things
happen to good people?**

**If God is great
and good why
do we suffer?**

**This broken world
is the best possible
context in which to
display all of God's
attributes.**

**We may not be able to
understand or control
what happens to us

but we can understand
and control our response
to what happens to us.**

“ 4 but in everything **commending** ourselves as servants of God,”

**The emphasis in this verse is on
“commending”
(to stand by)**

1. vs.1 “not to receive the grace of God in vain”
2. vs.3 “that the ministry be not discredited”
3. vs.4 **“in much endurance”**

**The way we see and respond
to personal hardship.**

Common mistakes we can make in facing hardships

**#1
Being surprised
that bad things
happen to good
Christians**



“4 . . . in much endurance,
in afflictions,
in hardships,
in distresses,
5 in beatings,
in imprisonments,
in tumults,
in labors,
in sleeplessness,
in hunger,”



Ambassadors of
reconciliation must be
careful to avoid the
mistake of
**confusing the
crowns and
the times.**

1 Pet.4:12-13

**Like Jesus,
we now carry a cross
as we prepare for a crown.**



Common mistakes we can make in facing hardships

**#2
Failing to
appreciate the
full breadth and
depth of Christ's
suffering.**



“4 . . . in much endurance,
in afflictions,
in hardships,
in distresses,
5 in beatings,
in imprisonments,
in tumults,
in labors,
in sleeplessness,
in hunger,”

Romans 8:16-18
Philippians 1:29-30

**Not all hardship
comes directly
from religious
persecution.**

Common mistakes we can make in facing hardships

**#3
Demanding an
explanation for
all suffering**



“its the
Devil”

“its all
my fault”

“its all
your fault”

“its
God's will”

“its God trying
to tell me something”

Common mistakes we can make in facing hardships



**#4
Expecting an
escape from
rather than a
way through
suffering.**



1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to **endure** it.

“to abide or remain under”

**We are free to walk
away from many
painful circumstances**

**but if we follow Jesus
we may be called not
to do so.**

“⁶ in **purity**,
in **knowledge**,
in **patience**,
in **kindness**,
in the Holy Spirit,
in genuine **love**,
⁷ in the word of **truth**,
in the **power** of God;
by the weapons of **righteousness** for the
right hand and the left,”



**Ambassadors of
reconciliation must be
careful to avoid the
mistake of**

**failing to
respond as
Jesus would
with grace
and power.**

“⁸ by glory
by evil report
regarded as deceivers
⁹ as unknown
as dying
as punished
¹⁰ as sorrowful
as poor
as having nothing

and dishonor,
and good report;
and yet true;
yet well-known,
yet behold, we live;
yet not put to death,
yet always rejoicing,
yet making many rich,
yet possessing all things.”

**Ambassadors of
reconciliation must
be careful to avoid
the mistake of**

**failing to see the
world through the
eye of heaven.**

Common mistakes we can make in facing hardships

#5 Failing to see the opportunity in suffering



- to develop and demonstrate a heavenly hope and perspective

- to know Christ. Phil.3:8-10

- to minister to those who suffer. 2 Cor.1:5-6

Summary of 6:1-10

**Ambassadors of reconciliation
must avoid these mistakes**

- ✓ fail to receive the Grace of God.
- ✓ fail to respond to the Grace of God.
- ✓ fail to realize the Plan of God.
- ✓ fail to represent the Gospel of God.
- ✓ fail to reflect the Son of God.
- ✓ fail to anticipate suffering.
- ✓ fail to appreciate the breadth of suffering.
- ✓ fail to accept the mystery of suffering.
- ✓ fail to abide through suffering.
- ✓ fail to act on the opportunities in suffering.