



Strength for the Journey

“Born Identity”

2 Corinthians 5:17



Notes:

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5. How much do you struggle with expecting to find complete happiness, joy, comfort, and satisfaction here in this fleeting, fallen world—even though we haven’t been promised those blessings until Jesus calls us home to heaven?

Digging Deeper:

If your group has enough time (i.e., you’ve listened to the audio on your own), answer one or more of these optional questions.

1. What does Joe mean by his statement: “If you are in Christ, you don’t need to fail. You may want to fail; you might fail; but you don’t need to fail”?
2. How was God’s character at stake through Job’s trials?
3. Joe tells about a woman who, after the third of three young children from her church died, prayed, “Lord, it is not ours to ask why but only to trust You; so teach us to trust You.” Can you remember praying or hearing an “in Christ” prayer or testimony similar to this woman’s prayer?

Strength through Sharing:

1. Can you recall an example from your own life of the principle that, if we are in Christ, God never wastes our sorrows?
2. Read the “Call to Action” below. How will you apply one of these challenges?



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Strength through Prayer:

Spend a few moments as a group in silent, personal prayer. Thank God that being in Christ brings us not only confidence in prayer, but also a guarantee of victory over sin and the shelter of His protection. Commit yourself to applying the privileges that come from being in Christ.

You may want to begin your prayer with these words:

“Lord Jesus, thank You for the incredible package of blessings that comes from being in You. I give myself back to You. I want to practice confidence in prayer. I commit myself to plan in advance to live out the victory I have, in You, over sin. I choose to believe that I am sheltered in Your protection—even when trouble comes my way. Thank You that You don’t waste my sorrows and that ‘all things work together for good.’”

When you are finished with this time for silent, personal prayer, you may want to move into a time of group prayer, praying for one another.

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Closing Call to Action:

1. Since in Christ we have victory over sin, we ought to plan for the victory. We’ve got to stop the victim talk (“I can’t help myself; it always happens”) and plan and determine to have victory in Christ.

We know the trip wires of sin in our lives: We say the wrong thing, or gossip, or go to the wrong place on the Internet, or treat our enemies inappropriately. Let’s take a couple of issues, some trip wires of sin, and premeditate how we will gain victory in Jesus Christ.

2. When life gets in our face and trouble comes, as it inevitably will, we need to know that God has a purpose for the pain. Instead of feeling fearful and anxious and hopeless, we have hope that God will do something in the midst of that trouble. He’s not going to waste our sorrows, but make meaning in our suffering for His glory and our good.