

BEYOND SUNDAY

We Believe — 4.6.25

Abundant Living When Life Hurts — Ben Pierce

OPENING (RELATIONSHIP BUILDING QUESTION):

Have you ever had a hard experience that was big enough that it impacted how your life was lived out from there forward? What was it?

Ben used three scripture passages and made points flowing from each:

PASSAGE 1: JOHN 6:35, 41-42, 53-54, 60-61, 66-69

- What do you think enabled the 12 to stay with Jesus while others left when He taught things they didn't understand?
- Have you ever stayed with Jesus when something happened to you that was painful and without explanation? What helped you to stay with Him? What sustained your faith that He is good and that He loves You?
- Path-altering pain requires us to develop more mature faith that can trust God when we don't understand what He's up to. What spiritual habits or practices have helped you to walk in this type of mature faith when life requires it?

PASSAGE 2: 2 COR. 12:7B-10

God sometimes saves us by delivering us **from** things. Other times He saves by walking with us right **through** the middle of them.

- What reason did God give to Paul for not removing his thorn?

- What do you think Paul learned from having to live life with his thorn?

- What has God taught you when He's walked through pain with you rather than delivering you from it?

- How do you keep believing that God loves us enough to do miracles and has the power to do them even when He sometimes chooses to save us through our pain rather than by delivering us from it?

PASSAGE 3: ROMANS 5:2B-5 "THE ROMANS 5 PROGRESSION"

- How do you think that walking through suffering in deep fellowship with Jesus and His people can lead to godly perseverance, character, and hope?

- None of us like suffering, but where have you seen this Romans 5 progression to play out in your life? How so?