

Sermon Application/Discussion Questions – 2/04/2018
Sunday Message: Warren Boettcher – 2 Corinthians 1:8-11
God's Power in Our Weakness: The Death of Self-Reliance

1. When you're going through a season of hardship or a difficult situation, what tends to be your initial reaction? Do you suffer in silence by withdrawing and processing things alone, or do you suffer outwardly by sharing with others and seeking help? Do you ignore or embrace the pain? Do you tend to blame shift; either to your circumstances, yourself, others or God? Do you try to tough it out by yourself, or do you try to seek to understand what God might be up to in allowing you to experience difficulty and trials?
2. The epitome of hopelessness is when we endure suffering that seems devoid of purpose. Paul shared his struggles not out of self-pity, but rather, to illustrate how God used adversity in his life for a greater redemptive purpose. Reflect on a hardship in your life. What did you learn about yourself and about God in that time? How did you gain a sense of purpose and/or deliverance in that hardship?
3. Prayer is not simply confession of our weakness, but it's also an expression of our faith. Prayer should function as a demonstration of our trust in God and our reliance upon him, but sometimes our prayers can stem from a selfish motivation. In what ways does your prayer life demonstrate a reliance on trusting God?