

Reflections on the Apostle Paul as a leader (Based on 2 Corinthians)

The Suffering Leader

“Suffering is God’s divine tool to shape us into His image”

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Paul knew that suffering was part of his calling (Acts 9:15-16)

Ramez Atallah was born in Cairo, Egypt and immigrated with his family to Canada when he was sixteen. He came to know the Lord through a local church in Montreal and was discipled as a student through the Inter-Varsity group at McGill University. From 1972 to 1980 he developed and directed the ministry of the Groupes Bibliques Universitaires du Quebec. In 1980 along with his wife and two children he returned to Egypt, where he became the IFES Regional Secretary for the Middle East. He attended the first Lausanne Congress and was appointed as a youth representative to the Lausanne Committee in 1975. He served on the Committee from 1975 to 1994. In 2006 he rejoined Lausanne as Program Chairman for Lausanne III Cape Town Congress. After the Congress, he was appointed as one of the Deputy Chairs of the Lausanne Movement until 2015. Since 1990, he has been the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Egypt, the position he still holds until now.

INTRODUCTION

We will look at Paul as a leader from four different angles:-

Paul as the....

- The **suffering** leader - Sunday
- The **persevering** leader - Monday
- The **reconciling** leader - Tuesday
- The **wounded** leader – Wednesday

We need to ask ourselves as leaders....

- How do we **respond to the suffering** in our lives?
- How do we **persevere under pressure**?
- How are we calling people to be reconciled with God and how are we a **reconciling presence** in our church and ministry?
- How do we **respond when we are deeply wounded** by those we lead or to whom we minister?

THE SUFFERING LEADER

- **The response to suffering**
 1. Praise (v.3-4)

2. Hope (v.7)

➤ **The results of suffering**

1. Equips us to comfort others (v.4)
2. Produces endurance (v. 6b)
3. Obliges us to rely on God (8b, 9)
4. Gives credibility to our ministry (6:3-10)
5. Strengthens us through weakness (12:9)

The unexpected fruit of suffering

Over the ages, as Christians responded to suffering with Praise and Hope the enemies of the Faith tried to destroy Christianity by torturing and ultimately killing believers. Their intent was to snuff out the faith, but to their surprise, the opposite happened.

Today as Christians are again being martyred for their faith instead of this destroying the Church it is resulting in stronger and deeper faith and true witness (marturia) which is impacting thousands of unbelievers.

*Pray that God will use your present suffering
to better shape you into His Image*