Down but Not Out

We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 2 Corinthians 4:6-10

And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure. 1 Corinthians 4:12

No matter what we have experienced throughout our lives, God has never forsaken us. So many times I have gone back to an event that left me overwhelmed and hopeless as a child. In each of these, Jesus has healed me simply by being present in a way that I can feel His love and relief. We are never alone and the One who is with us makes all the difference.

Studies included in this article are: Hard Pressed; Crushed; Perplexed; Despair; Despaired; Persecuted; Forsaken (New Testament); Forsaken (Not); Forsake (The Lord Not Forsake You); Struck Down; Destroyed; Reviled

For more information on this topic, please see: “Tribulations”; “Anxiety”; “Groanings”; “Fear Not”; “Lord, Help!”; “Cried Out To The Lord”

Hard Pressed

Isaiah 8:21 They will pass through it hard pressed and hungry; and it shall happen, when they are hungry, that they will be enraged and curse their king and their God, and look upward.

2 Corinthians 4:8 We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

Philippians 1:23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

 Crushed

Leviticus 22:24 ‘You shall not offer to the LORD what is bruised or crushed, or torn or cut; nor shall you make any offering of them in your land.

Numbers 22:25 And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall; so he struck her again.

Deuteronomy 9:21 "Then I took your sin, the calf which you had made, and burned it with fire and crushed it and ground it very small, until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.
Deuteronomy 28:33  "A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually.

Judges 9:53  But a certain woman dropped an upper millstone on Abimelech’s head and crushed his skull.

2 Kings 23:15  Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and burned the wooden image.

2 Chronicles 15:16  Also he removed Maachah, the mother of Asa the king, from being queen mother, because she had made an obscene image of Asherah; and Asa cut down her obscene image, then crushed and burned it by the Brook Kidron.

Job 4:19  How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, Whose foundation is in the dust, Who are crushed before a moth?

Job 5:4  His sons are far from safety, They are crushed in the gate, And there is no deliverer.

Job 22:9  You have sent widows away empty, And the strength of the fatherless was crushed.

Job 34:25  Therefore he knows their works; He overthrows them in the night, And they are crushed.

Psalms 143:3  For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, Like those who have long been dead.

Proverbs 26:28  A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

Proverbs 27:22  Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, Yet his foolishness will not depart from him.

Isaiah 59:5  They hatch vipers’ eggs and weave the spider’s web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out.

Jeremiah 51:34  "Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon Has devoured me, he has crushed me; He has made me an empty vessel, He has swallowed me up like a monster; He has filled his stomach with my delicacies, He has spit me out.

Ezekiel 6:9  "Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols; they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations.

Daniel 2:35  "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

2 Corinthians 4:8  We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair.

Perplexed
Esther 3:15 The couriers went out, hastened by the king’s command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

Luke 9:7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by Him; and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead,

Luke 24:4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.

John 13:22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.

Acts 2:12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

2 Corinthians 4:8 We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair.

Despair
1 Samuel 27:1 And David said in his heart, "Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand."

Jeremiah 19:9 And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his friend in the siege and in the desperation with which their enemies and those who seek their lives shall drive them to despair.

2 Corinthians 4:8 We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair.

Despaired
Ecclesiastes 2:20 Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun.

2 Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.

Persecuted
Deuteronomy 30:7 Also the LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.

Psalms 109:16 Because he did not remember to show mercy, But persecuted the poor and needy man, That he might even slay the broken in heart.

Psalms 143:3 For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, Like those who have long been dead.
Isaiah 14:6 He who struck the people in wrath with a continual stroke, He who ruled the nations in anger, is 
persecuted and no one hinders.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of 
heaven.

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the 
prophets who were before you.

John 5:16 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these 
things on the Sabbath.

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they 
persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

Acts 22:4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

Acts 26:11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being 
exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

1 Corinthians 4:12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we 
endure.

1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I 
persecuted the church of God.

2 Corinthians 4:9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—

Galatians 1:13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God 
beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

Galatians 1:23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us now preaches the faith which he 
once tried to destroy."

Galatians 4:29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to 
the Spirit, even so it is now.

1 Thessalonians 2:15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men.

Revelation 12:13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

**Forsaken (New Testament)**

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
Mark 15:34  And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

2 Corinthians 4:9  Persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—

2 Timothy 4:10  For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.

2 Peter 2:15  They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.

Forsaken (Not)

Genesis 24:27  And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."

Ruth 2:20  Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

2 Chronicles 13:10  But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken Him; and the priests who minister to the LORD are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites attend to their duties.

Psalms 9:10  And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Isaiah 62:12  And they shall call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; And you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

Jeremiah 51:5  For Israel is not forsaken, nor Judah, By his God, the LORD of hosts, Though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel.

2 Corinthians 4:9  Persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—

Forsake (The Lord Not Forsake You)

Deuteronomy 31:6  Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:8  And the LORD, He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.

Joshua 1:5  No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

1 Samuel 12:22  For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people.
1 Kings 6:13  And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

1 Kings 8:57  May the LORD our God be with us, as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us.

1 Chronicles 28:20  And David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God—my God—will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

Ezra 9:9  For we were slaves. Yet our God did not forsake us in our bondage; but He extended mercy to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to revive us, to repair the house of our God, to rebuild its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 9:17  They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage. But You are God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them.

Nehemiah 9:19  Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, To lead them on the road; Nor the pillar of fire by night, To show them light, And the way they should go.

Nehemiah 9:31  Nevertheless in Your great mercy You did not utterly consume them nor forsake them; For You are God, gracious and merciful.

Psalms 27:9  Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Psalms 27:10  When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me.

Psalms 37:28  For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.

Psalms 38:21  Do not forsake me, O LORD; O my God, be not far from me!

Psalms 71:9  Do not cast me off in the time of old age; Do not forsake me when my strength fails.

Psalms 71:18  Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.

Psalms 94:14  For the LORD will not cast off His people, Nor will He forsake His inheritance.

Psalms 138:8  The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Isaiah 41:17  The poor and needy seek water, but there is none, Their tongues fail for thirst. I, the LORD, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

Isaiah 42:16  I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them.
Hebrews 13:5  Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

**Struck Down**

Joshua 7:5  And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

Joshua 8:21  Now when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city and that the smoke of the city ascended, they turned back and struck down the men of Ai.

2 Samuel 2:31  But the servants of David had struck down, of Benjamin and Abner’s men, three hundred and sixty men who died.

2 Samuel 11:15  And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die."

2 Samuel 21:12  Then David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan his son, from the men of Jabesh Gilead who had stolen them from the street of Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them up, after the Philistines had struck down Saul in Gilboa.

1 Kings 2:32  "So the LORD will return his blood on his head, because he struck down two men more righteous and better than he, and killed them with the sword—Abner the son of Ner, the commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, the commander of the army of Judah—though my father David did not know it.

Psalms 78:31  The wrath of God came against them, And slew the stoutest of them, And struck down the choice men of Israel.

Psalms 136:17  To Him who struck down great kings, For His mercy endures forever;

Jeremiah 41:3  Ishmael also struck down all the Jews who were with him, that is, with Gedaliah at Mizpah, and the Chaldeans who were found there, the men of war.

Acts 7:24  And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian.

2 Corinthians 4:9  Persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—

**Destroyed (New Testament)**

Matthew 22:7  But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Luke 9:25  For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?
Luke 17:27  They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:29  But on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

Acts 3:23  ‘And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’

Acts 9:21  Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?"

Acts 13:19  And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment.

Acts 19:27  So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.

1 Corinthians 10:9  Nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents.

1 Corinthians 10:10  Nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

1 Corinthians 15:26  The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

2 Corinthians 4:9  Persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—

2 Corinthians 5:1  For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Galatians 2:18  "For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

Hebrews 11:28  By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

2 Peter 2:12  But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption.

Jude 1:5  But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Revelation 8:9  And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Reviled

1 Samuel 25:14  Now one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal’s wife, saying, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he reviled them.

Matthew 27:44  Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.
Mark 15:32  Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.

John 9:28 Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples.

1 Corinthians 4:12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure.

1 Peter 2:23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.

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