

THE OTHER END OF YOUR ROPE

II Cor. 1:8-10

I'm just about at the end of my rope. I can't take anymore.

WE FOCUS ON THE END OF THE ROPE WE HAVE A HOLD OF. MY QUESTION IS WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER END? IF "THAT" END OF MY ROPE IS CONNECTED TO SOMETHING WORTHLESS I AM IN TROUBLE.

1. PAUL'S ROPE WAS LONG v. 8

Paul's rope was long. He depended on the Lord to such a degree that he could withstand much more than the average Christian.

2 Corinthians 11:23–28 ...in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

2. PAUL'S ROPE WAS LIMITED

His rope was longer than most but it had a limit. Even the great Paul came to the end of his rope.

v. 8 ...we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

= beyond natural ability to withstand

It was more than he could handle

If Paul's rope had a limit, so does yours. Sooner or later something will happen that will overwhelm you.

You'll face something bigger than you

BEST ADVICE WORLD HAS IS HOLD ON TIGHTER

THE WORLD'S ADVICE IS DECIDE

World says, just decide you aren't going to let go. Put some guts into it.

THE WORLD'S ADVICE IS DETERMINE

Just keep doing right, don't give up

THE WORLD'S ADVICE IS DEDICATE

Start doing good. Find someone who needs your help. Volunteer at the homeless shelter

THE WORLD'S ADVICE IS DEPEND

Just believe in yourself. You have the power within yourself.

NONE OF THE WORLD'S ADVICE WILL HELP. WE NEED TO COME TO THE POINT THAT WE REALIZE HOW HELPLESS WE ARE ON OUR OWN

3. PAUL'S ROPE WAS LINKED

The other end of Paul's rope was connected to the Word of God and the power of God

2 Corinthians 1:9–10 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

v. 9 "should not trust in ourselves"

Paul didn't endure because he was tough. He endured because he was trusting the power of an all powerful God.

He experienced the GRACE OF GOD

Heb 6:19 Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

v. 9 "we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead"

We will face something bigger than us.

We will come to the end of our rope. When we do, we'd better make sure our rope is connected to something worth trusting.