



Part 4 – Knocked Down but Not Out
August 27, 2023

Would you characterize yourself as one of these three ways at the present: knocked down, about to be knocked down, just getting up from being knocked down?

Read John 15:18-20, 1 John 5:19 and Matthew 10:22

Are you surprised when trials and hardships come against you? Why can it especially hard to accept trials when you are trying to honor God and live for Him?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-26

Review the list of Paul's trials. Name some other characters in scripture who got knocked down and briefly describe how they responded.

Who do you know who clearly demonstrates "joy in the Lord" despite hardships?

Adam mentioned six reasons we get knocked down. (pride, God's sovereign plan (Romans 8:28), sanctification, letting down our guard, lack of accountability, someone else's sin.) Can you think of other reasons? Which are you personally most susceptible?

Read Matthew 26:69-75

Adam demonstrated the actual act of being knocked down and asked two questions:

Where are your eyes when you're flat down on your back?

What position are you generally in when you get up?

What are the answers to these two questions and how are the answers a good visual for us as we are dealing with hardship?

When people get knocked down, what are some 'things' they run to? (**addictions, comfort, isolation, etc. and Jesus**) Why is it so tempting to run toward things other than Jesus? What is your first response when difficulty comes your way?

Psalms 40:2 says, "He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."

Have you ever experienced this for yourself? Have you ever comforted someone else because of the experience? Tell your group about it.