

ADDITIONAL NOTES

BEING RENEWED DAY BY DAY

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

WALKING FAITHFULLY WITH CHRIST KEEPS US FROM BEING “CRUSHED” BY THE DIFFICULTIES WE ENDURE IN THIS LIFE

- “Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us. 8 We are afflicted in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair; 9 we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed.” (2 Corinthians 4:7-9)
- “Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7)
- “For God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6)
- **The pressure around you may be great, but the power within you is greater.**
- **A life filled with Christ can endure what would otherwise destroy a life dependent on self.**

SOMETIMES OUR AFFLICTIONS ARE PART OF GOD’S DIVINE PLAN TO GLORIFY CHRIST IN AND THROUGH US

- “We always carry the death of Jesus in our body, so that the life of Jesus may also be displayed in our body. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’s sake, so that Jesus’s life may also be displayed in our mortal flesh.” (2 Corinthians 4:10-11)
- **God often displays His greatest glory through the very wounds we wish He would remove.**
- **The suffering God allows is never wasted when it becomes a platform for revealing Jesus.**

A PROPER PERSPECTIVE OF GOD AND HIS PROMISES LEADS TO GRATITUDE EVEN IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

- “So then, death is at work in us, but life in you. 13 And since we have the same spirit of faith in keeping with what is written, I believed, therefore I spoke, we also believe, and therefore speak. 14 For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and present us with

you. 15 Indeed, everything is for your benefit so that, as grace extends through more and more people, it may cause thanksgiving to increase to the glory of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:12-15)

- **We can be thankful in suffering because we know it is temporary, and our perseverance through it encourages others and glorifies God.**
- **When we remember what is waiting for us in eternity, we can endure what is happening to us today.**
- **Thankfulness in suffering is not denial of pain; it is confidence in God's purpose.**

GOD DOES NOT LEAVE US TO DEAL WITH SUFFERING ON OUR OWN; HE RENEWS OUR SPIRIT AND REMINDS US OF THE ETERNAL GLORY THAT AWAITS US

- *“Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. 17 For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. 18 So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:7-18)*
- **Our bodies may be fragile like clay jars, but our inner person is being strengthened and renewed daily by the Spirit of God.**
- **Keeping our focus on God's eternal promises will keep us from becoming overwhelmed by the temporary struggles of life.**
- **What is temporary may be visible, but what is eternal is infinitely more valuable.**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- What contrasts does Paul use to describe the hardships believers experience and God's sustaining power during them? (vss. 7-9)
- What purpose does Paul identify for the suffering he experiences? (vss. 10-12)
- What truths give Paul confidence to continue believing, speaking, and serving despite his suffering? (vss. 13-15)
- What is happening to the believer's outer person and inner person, and where should we focus our attention? (vss. 16-18)

Understanding

- Why do you think God often chooses to display His strength through our weakness rather than removing every weakness from our lives?
- How might admitting our limitations actually create opportunities for others to see God's power more clearly?
- What kinds of pressure are most likely to make people feel spiritually or emotionally “crushed”?
- Without sharing anything you are uncomfortable discussing, can you think of a difficult experience that God eventually used to strengthen your faith or help someone else?
- How does believing that God can use our wounds change the way we view suffering?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to keep an eternal perspective when our present circumstances feel overwhelming?
- How can focusing only on what we can currently see distort our perspective of what God is doing?
- What is one specific action you can take this week to keep moving forward in faith rather than giving up?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?