Title: Heaven Belongs to Me: Holding On When You Feel Like Letting Go

Sermon Summary: In the opening installment of his "KNOW" series, the pastor reminds believers that they do not need new information -- they simply need to be grounded again in what they already know. Drawing primarily from 2 Corinthians 4 and 5, the sermon calls the people of God to resist the temptation to quit in the face of hardship. The central argument is that perspective, not circumstance, determines how a believer endures. Paul's declaration "we faint not" becomes the anchor of the message, as the pastor walks through how a believer can maintain faith through suffering by remembering who gave the assignment, recognizing where true strength comes from, and resting in what God has already promised. The sermon builds toward a climactic reminder that this life, with all its pain and pressure, is only a light affliction when weighed against the eternal glory to come -- and that heaven, as an assured inheritance, gives believers every reason to keep going.

Key Points:
- Believers do not always need new revelation; sometimes they need to be reminded of what they already know
- Perspective, not circumstance, is what separates those who endure from those who give up
- Paul's declaration "we faint not" in 2 Corinthians 4 is a bold statement of perseverance made not from comfort, but from a place of suffering
- To endure, believers must remember who gave them the assignment -- it is God's work, not their own, and he who began it will complete it
- Believers must recognize that their strength does not come from themselves; they are earthen vessels, fragile and limited, but sustained by the extraordinary power of God within them
- The contrast Paul draws in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 -- troubled but not distressed, perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not forsaken, cast down but not destroyed -- illustrates that for every pressure there is a divine counterbalance
- Believers must learn to rest in what God has already promised rather than constantly seeking something new; God cannot lie, and what he has spoken must come to pass
- The joy of a believer is fundamentally different from the happiness of the world -- it cannot be given or taken by circumstances
- Current suffering is described as a light and momentary affliction when compared to the eternal weight of glory
- The assurance of heaven gives the believer the strength to endure persecution, disappointment, sickness, and opposition without quitting

Scripture Reference:
- 2 Corinthians 4 -- Paul's declaration that believers do not lose heart, and his description of believers as earthen vessels carrying divine power through affliction
- 2 Corinthians 5:1 -- Paul's confident assertion that if this earthly body is dissolved, believers have an eternal dwelling prepared by God
- Romans 8:28 -- the assurance that all things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose
- Psalm 37:23 -- the steps of a righteous person are ordered by the Lord

- Galatians 6:9 -- a call not to grow weary in doing good, for in due season the believer will reap if they do not give up
- Numbers 23:19 -- God is not a man that he should lie; what he has spoken he will do
- Isaiah 40:8 -- the grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of God stands forever
- Hebrews 12:2 -- Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before him

Stories:
- The pastor recounts a personal story about accompanying his father through a difficult season of recurring medical crises. After moving from one doctor's appointment to another and back to the emergency room, his father looked at the ER sign, turned to the pastor, and said that the devil would run out of things to throw at him before God ran out of ways to bring him out. This story is used to illustrate the kind of unshakeable perspective that sustains a believer through prolonged suffering.