

What Matters Most – Strength for the Storm Pastor Kevin Casey September 21, 2025

# Strength for the Storm: Staying True to What Matters Most

Group Study Handout based on Pastor Kevin Casey's sermon from the series "What Matters Most." This message focuses on how temporary trials come to destroy us—but how we choose to face them can develop us. By strengthening our inner man, we can walk in eternal victory and stay faithful to Jesus.

## **Key Scripture**

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NKJV)

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

#### **Main Point**

Temporary trials come to destroy us—but how we choose to face them or go through them can develop us. We can strengthen our inner man so we can walk in eternal victory.

#### **Sermon Points**

- 1. Trials Reveal What You're Rooted In They expose whether your faith is in feelings or in God's Word.
- 2. Trials Force You to Rely on the Spirit In weakness, you discover God's strength.
- 3. Trials Train You to Walk by Faith, Not by Sight Endurance builds when you choose faith over feelings.
- Illustration: Doing a plank doesn't sound like much, but try holding it for 30–60 seconds. Weakness you didn't know was there begins to shake. Likewise, trials expose where our faith trembles. We overcome by standing, waiting on the Lord, and reminding ourselves of His goodness.
- 4. Trials Give You a Track Record of Trust Every trial endured becomes a testimony of God's faithfulness.

5. Trials Renew Your Inner Man – Renewal happens daily as you focus on Christ through His Word and Spirit.

#### **Quotes for Reflection**

- "If you believe in something, you need to have the courage to fight for those ideas—not run away from them or try and silence them." Charlie Kirk
- "You will never be victorious as long as you are passive. You have to stir yourself up." Charlie Kirk
- "Leadership is not about popularity; it's about doing what is right." Charlie Kirk
- "It is an attribute of greatness ... to persevere and to prevail, no matter the personal cost." Charlie Kirk

### **Group Discussion Questions**

- 1. Which part of 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 speaks to you most today, and why?
- 2. How have trials revealed what you are rooted in?
- 3. In what areas are you tempted to rely on the flesh instead of the Spirit?
- 4. The plank illustration shows how weakness is exposed under pressure. Where have you felt your faith start to tremble under the 'weight' of waiting on God?
- 5. Share an example where a trial gave you a testimony of God's faithfulness. How did that experience prepare you for greater things?
- 6. What does it practically look like to be renewed day by day in your inner man?
- 7. What distractions have storms tried to use to pull you away from 'what matters most'—living for Jesus?
- 8. Who needs to hear your testimony this week, and how will you share it?