

### **2 Corinthians 4:7-18 English Standard Version**

**7** But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. **8** We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; **9** persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; **10** always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. **11** For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. **12** So death is at work in us, but life in you.

**13** Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, **14** knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. **15** For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

**16** So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. **17** For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, **18** as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

### ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

In the sermon, John shared three means by which God will get our attention and break us out of denial: crisis, confrontation, and catastrophe. How has God used these to get your attention?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. How does Paul describe his own powerlessness and his hope in God's power? What words does he use to express each?

The second step of recovery is "We came to believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover." Read Romans 1:20. How does nature point to the existence of God?

In addition to creation, what are some other reasons we can be confident in the existence of God?

Read Colossians 1:15. Why is it important to look at Jesus in order to understand the character of God?

Do you believe God cares about your situation, that you matter to Him? How would you explain this belief to someone else?

Read Galatians 5:16-24. How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit helping you overcome past hurts, habits, or hang ups? Do you trust Him to help you in the future?

In what areas of life do you need to ask God for help? How can your group pray with you?

**Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**

**Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?**

**Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**