

## Power In Weakness: FOREVER (part 1)

March 20, 2022

FBC MISSION: Seeking to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus who love, live, and share Him.

### Introduction:

**Big Idea:** A \_\_\_\_\_ perspective reorients you.

Steps to take in developing a FOREVER perspective:

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ THROUGH THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF DAILY LIFE (16)

- v.16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
- **INSIGHT:** Without a \_\_\_\_\_ viewpoint, I will \_\_\_\_\_ the happenings of my life.

#### 2. LIVE WITH A \_\_\_\_\_, NOT A \_\_\_\_\_, MINDSET (17)

- v. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,
- Note the comparisons:
- “preparing” – \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- **INSIGHT:** Right now, right here is not your destination, but rather a preparation of the \_\_\_\_\_ destination that is to come.

#### 3. LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE \_\_\_\_\_ (18)

- v. 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.
- “\_\_\_\_\_” means to ponder, to sincerely consider
- Developing this spiritual skill of seeing the unseen:
  - Seeing the unseen is a description of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Read Romans 10:17 source of faith is \_\_\_\_\_
    - As we read God’s Word, the Holy Spirit convinces us of the absolute reliability of God’s character
    - Scripture reminds us of God’s faithfulness to his wonderful promises
    - The Holy Spirit empowers us to live based upon these promises not our feelings, experiences or fears AND OUR FAITH (CONFIDENT EXPECTATIONS) GROWS.
- **INSIGHT:** When we ask the present to give us what only eternity can give, we end up driven, frustrated, discouraged, and ultimately hopeless.

## Truth into Action:

- Remember that God is using the difficulties of your life to prepare you FOREVER.
- Faithful people ponder things of eternal value. What do you ponder?
- Learn to focus on what you cannot see.



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

## Table Talk

Warm Up: Ecclesiastes clues us to the reality that God himself put FOREVER in the human heart. James reminds us that our earthly journey is a lot like a mist that lingers until the wind blows it away. Do you think about FOREVER often? Discuss this with those around your table.

v. 16 - What makes keeping going so hard on the one hand and so important on the other?

v.17 - What is God doing in us and in our world? Why is that a motivating factor to keep pressing on?

v. 18 - The Greek verb translated “look . . . at” in 2 Corinthians 4:18 carries the concept of fixing one’s gaze intently or concentrating on something. As a Christian, Paul did not value material, temporal things visible to physical eyes. Rather, he valued spiritual, eternal things. Jesus changed Paul’s perspective and enabled him to see what really mattered in life. Where is your gaze lately? What has discouraged you? Temporary earthly distractions put a chokehold on spiritual productivity. If you have found this to be true in your life, it’s time to refocus on your personal spiritual motivation.

**Closing Prayer:** Eternal God, one day with you is like a thousand years, help me to grow a FOREVER perspective so that we might NOT LOSE HEART in the face of hard things. For your glory and our good—amen!