

***Returning to the Authentic Gospel
Restoring Our Faith – Eternal Perspective
2 Corinthians 4:13-18***

Courageous Ministry...

In verses 1-6 of 2 Corinthians 4, Paul how to have courage to fulfill the ministry...

Living in God's Power...

In verses 7-12 of 2 Corinthians 4, Paul then gives us he secret to living in God's Power...

Our weakness releases God's Power!

Now we move to Paul bringing those two ideas together and showing how we can remain consistent in our faith no matter what circumstances arise...

We must live with Eternal Perspective!

2 Corinthians 4:13–18 (ESV) — 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.

ONE THING

When we live with an ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE we will walk with INTERNAL PEACE and EXTERNAL POWER!

1. The FOUNDATION of our faith must be CONVICTION

2 Corinthians 4:13 (ESV) — 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,

What is Paul talking about here?

In the midst of difficult times, Paul shares about his “spirit of faith”

He is referring to King David's faith expressed in Psalm 116...

In Psalm 116 David has been under intense attacks...

Psalm 116:3 (ESV) — The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

David has stated this same sentiment in Psalm 18...

Psalm 18:4–5 (ESV) — The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.

However, in the very middle of the Psalm we see David's Spiritual Perspective...

Psalm 116:10 (ESV) — I believed, even when I spoke: "I am greatly afflicted"

Listen to the words from the LXX...

Psalm 115:1 (Logos LXX) — Αλληλουια. Ἐπίστευσα, διὸ ἐλάλησα, ἐγὼ δὲ ἔταπεινώθην σφόδρα.

**Psalm 116:10 (LXX)
"I believed, therefore I have spoken: 'I am greatly afflicted.'"**

What David is saying in this Psalm is that his faith looks at life from an Eternal Perspective, therefore when afflictions come he takes them to the Lord...

Paul says that he has the same Eternal Perspective as King David!

How do we gain this Eternal Perspective?

The FOUNDATION of our faith must be CONVICTION!

→ ILLUSTRATION – Protests in Europe over Recession

Tens of thousands of people have been protesting against the current economic recession in Paris, France...

Similar protests have begun in Germany, Italy, Belgium, and several other European countries...

In France, almost on third of their gas pumps are either fully or partly dry due to embargos against Russia...

Everyone was united against Russia's attacks Ukraine when they began... Embargos were cheered...

However, as these embargos have now created economic recessions in many of these countries, many are not near as cheerful...

All the while, China is watching and smiling... They see this crack as a good sign for them to possibly attack Taiwan...

Here's the reality...

Everyone was committed to the ideas of standing united against Russia's aggression when it began, but didn't consider the future personal costs...

They were committed to the point that they were not personally affected...

QUESTION: Is your commitment to following Jesus

For most of us we would quickly say, FULLY!

However, are we really?

Here is the real question...

Is your commitment to following Jesus a preference or a conviction?

This is the question Jesus asks his followers...

Luke 14:28 (ESV) — For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?

In other words, Jesus is saying to us that we must first count the costs BEFORE committing!

Now hear the level of commitment Jesus is calling us to...

Luke 14:26–27 (ESV) — If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Here is Jesus' conclusion...

Luke 14:33 (ESV) — So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

This commitment is not based upon preferences, but on full conviction!

When we live with an eternal perspective we will walk with internal peace and external power!

1. The FOUNDATION of our faith must be CONVICTION

2. The FUTURE of our faith gives us CONFIDENCE

2 Corinthians 4:14–15 (ESV) — knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us

with you into his presence. 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.

Paul then continues ...

Once our foundation is settled... once we have it grounded in CONVICTION, we can then face anything with CONFIDENCE because we KNOW our future!

Hebrews 11:13 (ESV) — These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Those in the “hall of faith” had an Eternal Perspective that saw their future!

Following them, we too must look to Jesus and then follow this same Eternal Perspective!

Hebrews 12:1–3 (ESV) — Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

When we live with an eternal perspective we will walk with internal peace and external power!

1. The FOUNDATION of our faith must be CONVICTION

2. The FUTURE of our faith gives us CONFIDENCE

**3. The FOCUS of our faith brings us
CONTENTMENT**

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (ESV) — So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 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.

Philippians 4:11–13 (ESV) — Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

When we live with an eternal perspective we will walk with internal peace and external power!

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When we live with an _____ we will
walk with _____ and _____!

1. The _____ of our faith must be

2. The _____ of our faith gives us

3. The _____ of our faith brings us
