

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Down But Not Out

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
September 12, 2021



How do we comeback stronger as a people and as a Church?

2 Corinthians 4:5-7 (NLT) "You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves."

- **It is all about Jesus!** v. 7

v. 7 (AMP) "But we have this precious treasure [the good news about salvation] in [unworthy] earthen vessels [of human frailty], so that the grandeur and surpassing greatness of the power will be [shown to be] from God [His sufficiency] and not from ourselves."

- **God's power shines through our frailty.**

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NLT) "We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. ⁹ We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed."

- **Suffering hurts but it doesn't have to hinder us. **Why?****

2 Corinthians 4:10-12 (NLT) "Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. ¹¹ Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. ¹² So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you."

Big Idea: Trust Christ and see your obstacles become opportunities.

So how do we apply this principle to ensure we "Comeback Stronger"?

Obstacles become opportunities when we...

- **Preach Christ risen.**

2 Corinthians 4:13-15 (NLT) "But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke."¹⁴ We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. ¹⁵ All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory."

- **Persevere with hope.**

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 (NLT) "That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. ¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!"

- **Fixate on eternal things.**

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NLT) "So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.**

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Down But Not Out

#1 of 4 - September 12, 2021

- 1) Last week we asked the question “what impurity is currently hindering the work of God in you and through you’? Take some time to share how God has been speaking to you this week.
- 2) What is your favourite comeback story and why?
- 3) Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-18. What is the context for this passage of Scripture? Who is Paul writing to and why?
- 4) What do you learn about suffering and hardship from this passage? What does this tell us about who God is and who we are as humans?
- 5) What image does Paul use to describe our lives and how do you resonate with this? How does our frailty enhance God’s power? Can you share any examples of this from your own life?
- 6) Why does the resurrection of Jesus Christ change our perspective on suffering and hardship? Read 2 Cor. 4:10-15.
- 7) In what ways do you need to persevere with hope today? How does 2 Cor. 4:16-17 encourage you?
- 8) What action step will you take today to “fixate on eternal things” according to 2 Cor. 4:18.



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