
STRENGTH
IN GRIEF

IS HOPE

2 Corinthians 2:4

For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.

2 Corinthians 1:1-5

**Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.**

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 4:1-18 (continued)

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

**We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not in despair;
persecuted, but not abandoned;
struck down, but not destroyed. ...**

- 2 Corinthians 4:1-18 (continued)

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

**STRENGTH
IN THE HOPE OF RECONCILIATION**

Romans 12:18

**If it is possible, so far as it depends on you,
live peaceably with all.**

Hebrews 12:14

Pursue peace with everyone.

**STRENGTH
IN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE**

Life is short.

Eternity is long.

2 Corinthians 1:6

If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.

PATIENT ENDURANCE

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

**STRENGTH
IN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE**

Straight From a Movie

Life is **pain**, Highness.
Anyone who says differently
is selling something.

Man in Black, The Princess Bride

**STRENGTH
IN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE**

**STRENGTH
IN THE COMFORT AND
ENOUGH-NESS of GOD**

God is WITH you.

Philippians 4:4

**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:
Rejoice!**

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

The Lord is near.

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God. And the peace of God,
which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ
Jesus.**

Psalm 16:1-2, 7-11

**I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.**

I have set the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

**Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,**

**You have made known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

**We know God more deeply
in suffering and rejection.**

Isaiah 53:3

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Philippians 3:8-14

...I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Jesus will comfort you.

Isaiah 61:1-3

**...He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion--
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of
ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord
for the display of his splendor**

Wait on him.
Hope in him.
Look to him.
Lean into him.

**STRENGTH
IN THE COMFORT AND
ENOUGH-NESS of GOD**

STRENGTH
IN GRIEF
