



## WE DO NOT LOSE HEART

### 2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-18

2 Cor. 4:8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed: 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

12 So death works in us, but life in you. 13 But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke." We also believe, therefore, also we speak; 14 knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.

15 For all things are for your sakes, that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God. 16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

#### DO NOT LOSE HEART

One author said, "Affliction is serious but not fatal. Perplexity is real, but the Christian can still find his [or her] way. Persecution is fierce, but the Lord stands by us. Even the most devastating thrust does not prove mortal. God does deliver His servants from the power of evil."

Another said, "To be at the end of [one's] resources is not to be at the end of God's resources; on the contrary, it is to be precisely in the position best suited to prove and benefit from them. And to experience the surplus of the power of God breaking through and resolving them."

#### THE ATTACK (vv. 8-9)

- Afflicted but not crushed.
- Perplexed but not despairing.
- Persecuted but not forsaken.
- Struck down but not destroyed.

#### THREE REASONS WHY WE SUFFER AS BELIEVERS (vv. 10-12)

- We bear in our bodies the death of Jesus (v. 10).
- We are delivered to death for Jesus' sake (v. 11).
- Death is working in us so that life can be born in others (v. 12).

#### THE SPIRIT OF THE BELIEVER

- Ready to manifest the Christ-life (v. 10).
- Ready to suffer for the preaching of the gospel (v. 11-12).
- Ready to exhibit the spirit of faith (v. 13).
- Abounds in the spirit of thanksgiving (v. 15).
- Considers the affliction in view of the promise of an eternal home (v. 17).

#### OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Our statement of faith: You can confine my body but not my spirit. You may incarcerate my body but my spirit will escape to the spaciousness of the kingdom of God and find rest there.

#### THE ASSURANCE OF THE BELIEVER

- There will be a resurrection day!!! (v. 14)
- Our spirits are renewed every day. (v. 16)
- The reward promised is greater than the present trial! (v. 17)
- "Unseen things" are eternal!!! (v. 18)

### 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7

*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. NLT*