

So We Do Not Lose Heart

July 25, 2020

2 Corinthians 4:7-12 ESV

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

- *In any adversity, someone has to win and someone has to lose: either you or the adversity.*
- *It brings God great glory and praise when a jar of clay, that should have been broken and shattered by such adversity, stands victorious in the end!*
- *Are you willing to be that jar of clay?*

2 Corinthians 4:7-12 ESV

8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Acts 14:19-20 ESV

19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.

20 But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

- *People who were stoned died a very bloody death from blunt force trauma to the head.*
- *Whether Paul truly died and was miraculously resurrected, or whether he was knocked unconscious and then his consciousness returned, no one sustaining the injuries of being stoned would have been able to rise up and walk back into town. No one with those injuries would be able to travel the next day to Derbe on foot.*
- *Trials are designed by God to push us beyond the limit of our wisdom, strength and ability so there's no other choice but to turn to Him.*

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 ESV

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- *Without trials in our life:*
 - *we take credit, thinking of ourselves too highly*
 - *we forget how needy and dependent we are on God*

- *we drift away from God instead of drawing near to God*
- *We boast and rejoice in trials because adversity:*
 - *keeps us needy and dependent on God*
 - *keeps us weak and empty to be filled with His strength*
 - *keeps our fellowship with God fresh and alive*
- *The ability to rejoice and count it all joy in trials is the greatest proof that you are His child:*
 - *surrendering your preferences, your will and your life for His sovereign plan, even when it's painful*

Mark 4:16-17 KJV

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

Job 13:15 KJV

15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

2 Corinthians 4:16 ESV

16 So we do not lose heart.

- *One of the most important principles to not losing heart is to understand what God is doing through this trial in your life.*

2 Corinthians 12:7 ESV

7 ...a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

James 1:5 ESV

5 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ESV

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.

- *Why we don't lose heart:*
 - *we ask for the wisdom to understand what God is working in us through the trial*
 - *we experience a supernatural supply of the life of Christ, "...renewed day by day..."*
 - *we are willing to suffer temporal pain now for the future hope of eternal glory*
 - *we discipline our heart, mind, eyes and ears to focus on the unseen things of God, instead of what is seen in the temporal world*