

Discouraged ? Encouraged

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer person is decaying, yet our inner person is being renewed day by day. 17 For our 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.

Therefore we do not lose heart...

2 Corinthians 4:1 - Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart!

...Therefore...we do not lose heart!

2 Corinthians 4:7 - But we have this treasure in earthen containers, so that the extraordinary greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.

...Therefore, we do not lose heart!

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 - We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed;

...Therefore, we do not lose heart!

2 Corinthians 4:10 - Always carrying around in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

...Therefore, we do not lose heart!

2 Corinthians 4:14 - Knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and will present us with you.

...Therefore, we do not lose heart!

2 Corinthians 4:15 - For all things are for your sakes, so that grace, having spread to more and more people, will cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

...Therefore, we do not lose heart!

2 Corinthians 1:8 - ...we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life

2 Corinthians 11:24-25 - Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent adrift at sea.

Don't Lose Heart

It was the day the world went wrong  
I screamed 'til my voice was gone  
And watched through the tears as everything  
Came crashing down  
Slowly panic turns to pain  
As we awake to what remains  
And sift through the ashes that are left behind...

Beauty Will Rise – Stephen Curtis Chapman

2 Corinthians 4:18 = 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.

ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

FOCUS ON THE ETERNAL RATHER THAN THE TEMPORAL – 4:18

- Do not focus on the things that are seen, they are temporary
- Focus on things that are not seen, they are eternal

SEEN = temporary

UNSEEN = eternal

“Look”

Comes from the Greek word σκοπέω (skopeo)  
It's meaning is to view attentively, pay close attention,  
to focus or fix our eyes on

Philippians 2:4 - Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others

Philippians 3:17 - Brothers and sisters, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

### 1. Focus on Jesus

Hebrews 12:2 (NAS95) - Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...

He is the AUTHOR

Ephesians 1:4 (NIV) - For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight...

He is the PERFECTER

Philippians 1:6 (NIV) - ... He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

### 1. Focus on Jesus

### 2. Focus on spiritual things

Colossians 3:1-3 - Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God

Hebrews 11:27 - By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he persevered, as though seeing Him who is unseen.

Acts 7:55-56 - But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; 56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

2 Corinthians 4:17 - For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison

## ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

### 1. FOCUS ON THE ETERNAL RATHER THAN THE TEMPORAL – 4:18

### 2. FOCUS ON THE ETERNAL REWARD RATHER THAN THE PRESENT HARDSHIPS – 4:17

- Affliction is momentary and light
- Affliction produces an "eternal weight of glory"

SEEN = present suffering

UNSEEN = future glory

It is because the coming glory is so weighty that the present affliction seems so light, just as the eternity of the coming glory makes the affliction seem momentary. It is not simply that the glory is the compensation for the affliction. . . rather, the glory is the product of the affliction, produced in measure beyond all comparison. – FF Bruce

Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

1 Peter 1:6-7 - In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 4:12-14 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though something strange were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, and of God, rests upon you

Romans 5:3-5 - ...but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

John 16:33 - These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

2 Corinthians 4:16 - Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer person is decaying, yet our inner person is being renewed day by day.

## ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

1. FOCUS ON THE ETERNAL RATHER THAN THE TEMPORAL – 4:18

2. FOCUS ON THE ETERNAL REWARD RATHER THAN PRESENT HARDSHIPS – 4:17

3. FOCUS ON THE INNER RENEWAL RATHER THAN THE OUTER DECAY – 4:16

- The outer person is decaying
- The inner person is being renewed daily

SEEN = our physical

UNSEEN = our spirit

2 Corinthians 4:16 (NLT) - That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.

Galatians 6:17 - From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

Hebrews 9:27 (NAS95) = And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment

Psalms 139:16 - Your eyes have seen my formless substance; and in Your book were written all the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.

Lamentations 3:21-23 - I recall this to my mind, therefore I wait. 22 The Lord's acts of mercy indeed do not end, for His compassions do not fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in distresses, in persecutions, in difficulties, in behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Galatians 6:9-10 - Let's not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let's do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

2 Corinthians 5:1-5 (NLT) - For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.<sup>2</sup> We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. <sup>3</sup> For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. <sup>4</sup> While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup> God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:57 - But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It was the day the world went wrong  
I screamed 'til my voice was gone  
And watched through the tears as everything  
Came crashing down

Slowly panic turns to pain  
As we awake to what remains  
And sift through the ashes that are left behind

But buried deep beneath  
All our broken dreams  
We have this hope:  
Out of these ashes... beauty will rise  
And we will dance among the ruins  
We will see it with our own eyes  
Out of this darkness  
New life will shine  
And we'll know joy that's coming  
In the morning

Beauty Will Rise – Stephen Curtis Chapman

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3. FOCUS ON THE INNER RENEWAL RATHER THAN THE OUTER DECAY – 4:16