

September 28, 2025

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing

The Book of 2 Corinthians – Part 3

Don't Lose Heart – Be of Good Courage

Today we continue on our multi-year journey through the New Testament where we are seeking to understand the historical, chronological & missiological of the 1st Century Church so that we in the 21st Century Church can keep the “CHURCH ALIVE & GROWING”. We pick up where we left off with Paul at the end of his 1st Letter to the Church in Corinth. As I mentioned before, Paul had spent 1 ½ years previously in Corinth evangelizing, discipling and planting churches. He then left to go to Ephesus where he stayed 3 years. During this time, Paul received news of the chaos that had erupted in the Corinth Church. That's when he wrote we know of as 1st Corinthians. It appears that he left Ephesus and may a quick ‘painful visit’ as we will learn in Chapter 2:1,2. Paul then left and promised to return for a longer visit and then he went to Macedonia. It appears he stayed in Macedonia longer than expected by him and by the Corinth church and they began to accuse him of forgetting them and seemed to question his integrity and intentions. This prompted Paul to **write the letter we know of as 2 Corinthians** about 1 year after he had sent them 1st Corinthians. Approximately 55/56 BC.

Last 2 weeks The Ministry of Comfort & Reconciliation

1. Receive God's Comfort—
2. Extend God's Comfort—
3. Walk in Integrity—

**A Triumphant Faith &
A Transforming Faith**

The following Adapted from Warren Wiersbe's Bible Exposition Commentary 2. Cor.

‘**Don't Lose Heart-Be of Good Courage**’ is the title but let me share a subtitle that ties us in with the previous chapters. To be specific we are to ***Not Lose Heart*** because we have a “**Triumphant & Transforming Faith that Leads Us into a Ministry of Comfort and Reconciliation**”

Let's look at what **WE HAVE** that helps us to **NOT LOSE HEART**.

1. We Have A Glorious Ministry

2 Corinthians 4:1-6... ¹*Therefore, since through God's mercy we have **this ministry**, we **do not lose heart**.* ²*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 everyone's conscience in the sight of God.* ³*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.* ⁴*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* ⁵*For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.* ⁶*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 God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.*

I think we would all agree that your attitude toward some task or some person will have a great deal to do with how well you deal with the issue.

Paul continues to call us to fulfill our Ministry (*Of Comfort, Reconciliation & Righteousness*) with an attitude of confidence. Don't lose heart, remember we have a Triumphant & Transforming Faith that is centered on Jesus Christ and powered by the Holy Spirit. Choose to live and serve in victory. In verse 2 Paul reminds us that we need to live lives of godliness and not shamefulness. If you and I are going to have a Glorious Ministry, we must live lives of integrity and godliness with an attitude of Faithful Confidence. We also need to make sure our Glorious Ministry is focused on the truth of the Gospel (see vs. 2b). That truth is the Glory of the Light of Jesus Christ. We must share the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a dark and confused world. We must Shine Forth the Truth.

*Because of this Glorious Ministry...
Don't Lose Heart – Be of Good Courage*

2. **We Have An Indestructible Treasure**

2 Corinthians 4:7-12...

⁷ *But we have **this treasure** in jars of clay to show that this **all-surpassing power** is from God and not from us.* ⁸ *We are hard pressed on every side but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;* ⁹ *persecuted but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed.* ¹⁰ *We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.* ¹¹ *For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that His life may also be revealed in our mortal body.* ¹² *So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.*

Paul here uses a contrasting image between the frailty of “jars of clay” which is a metaphor of the fragile, weak and temporary nature of our human bodies and the Indestructible Precious Treasure of the Gospel. Paul's goal is to make sure that we place Priority on the TREASURE and not the VESSEL. “The **treasure** refers to the **gospel of Jesus Christ**—the light of God's glory revealed in Christ. It includes the **knowledge of salvation**, the **presence of the Holy Spirit**, and the **power of God** working through believers. Paul's point is that this divine treasure is housed in fragile vessels (us) so that it's clear the power comes from God, not human strength”. (Crosswalk.com)

We may fear that the Gospel will somehow fail to shine forth to the world. We may be tempted to think that when great spiritual leaders and voices are silenced or die that the Gospel will falter. HEAR THIS: The Gospel Treasure of Jesus Christ WILL be proclaimed no matter how dark the world gets, or how many voices are silenced or killed. The Triumphant Transforming Gospel of Christ is Indestructible. If one “Jar of Clay” is broken and silenced, God will raise up another or multitudes in their place. Our Priority is to Shine Forth, Proclaim Forth the Indestructible Treasure of the Gospel of Jesus Christ no matter what. That's our Glorious Ministry!

*Because of this Glorious Ministry &
This Indestructible Treasure...
Don't Lose Heart – Be of Good Courage*

With that Glorious & Indestructible Foundation ...

3. **We Have A Confident Faith**

We Have A Confident Faith

2 Corinthians 4:13-18...¹³ *It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken."* Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak,¹⁴ *because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.* ¹⁵ *All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.* ¹⁶ *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.* ¹⁷ *For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.* ¹⁸ *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

Paul challenges us to rise up with a Confident Faith based on the Indestructible and Indisputable fact that Jesus is the Christ, He rose from the dead and is the Victorious Savior of the World. Oh Church, never let the snarl and growl of the Devil and his minions make you cower, fear or be ashamed. We Serve a Risen Savior! WE KNOW HE LIVES! WE KNOW HE REIGNS! WE KNOW HE WILL ALWAYS REIGN. As someone once said, I have read the last chapter as we KNOW WHO WINS.

Therefore, no matter how difficult or challenging this world may be, RISE UP IN CONFIDENT FAITH. Remember we have a Triumphant & Transforming Faith based on a Glorious, Majestic Risen Savior.

Listen to what Jesus said **John 16:33** ... *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

*Because of This Glorious Ministry &
This Indestructible Treasure &
Our Confident Faith
Don't Lose Heart – Be of Good Courage*

The Good News just keeps on coming. Not only in this world do we have Confidence and Hope...

4. We Have A Future Hope

2 Cor. 5:1-10...¹ *For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.* ² *Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling,* ³ *because when we are clothed, we will not be found unclothed.* ⁴ *For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.* ⁵ *Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.* ⁶ *Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.* ⁷ *For we live by faith, not by sight.* ⁸ *We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.* ⁹ *So we make it our goal to please*

Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Though we may groan in our ‘jars of clay’, it will be worth it when we are released from the bondage of this earthly body and are clothed with our heavenly body. Whatever we may go through in this world the glory and blessings of our heavenly home make it worth staying faithful. We have the Holy Spirit within us to not only empower us to be faithful in our ministry, He (The Holy Spirit) is also the Deposit guaranteeing our eternal home in heaven. HALLELUJAH!

***Because of This Glorious Ministry &
This Indestructible Treasure &
Our Confident Faith &
Our Future Hope...***

Don't Lose Heart – Be of Good Courage