

# **We Do Not Lose Heart**

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

**January 13, 2008**

# 1 Corinthians 2:2

For I decided to know nothing among you  
except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

## 2 Corinthians 4:1,16

**So we do not lose heart.** Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. (verse 16)

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, **we do not lose heart.** (Verse 1)

# Paul himself had good reason to lose heart!

For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9b

## 2 Corinthians 4:8-9; 12:7b

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;  
perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted,  
but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed

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

# 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

# How can Paul say that we do not lose heart?

For this light momentary affliction is **preparing** for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 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.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

# What is affliction actually doing?

NASB = Producing for us

NIV = Achieving for us

NKJV = Working for us

An eternal weight of glory beyond all  
comparison!

# Romans 8:35-37

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

*As we look* not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen

This means that in the “seen” realm, our affliction looks and feels *only* like opposition. But in the “unseen” realm, it is putting on our jersey and fighting with us on our side. This is why Paul writes these things, because without them, they would only seem like opposition and they would cause us to lose heart!

# A biblical illustration of the unseen

But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.

1 Thessalonians 2:17-18

# We Look to the unseen and we don't lose heart

Affliction + Seen = Lose heart

Affliction + Unseen = We do not lose heart

Unknown purpose for affliction = Added affliction

The Bible allows us to see the unseen and makes it  
possible for Christians to know that opposition is not  
actually opposition

# Conclusion

1. Keep an eternal perspective!
2. Strive to know your eternal lot in Christ!  
1 Corinthians 15:50-58; Revelation 21-22; Isaiah 35, 65-66
3. Live for a great cause!