

“It’s All About the Heart”

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This life is full of uncertainties. Sometimes that can be a fun part of life, but most of the time it’s a cause for worry and stress. What will happen next? What can and will go wrong?

Open to 2 Corinthians 4. It becomes very easy to lose heart, because many of the things and situations we run into become so negative. But it all depends on how you focus your heart.

Verses 16-18, *“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 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.”*

You lose heart when you focus on:

- **The World.** It’s a mess! Filled with hatred-injustice-inequality-based on money. Don’t know what to do!
- **Struggles.** Medical, physical, financial, family, emotional. Our bodies are slowly falling apart. Newspaper print seems to get smaller and smaller all the time. You have to ask people to repeat again what they’ve said because you couldn’t hear them. You wonder why everybody is walking so fast. You’re changing outwardly, not necessarily for the better. The outward man is deteriorating, growing weak and feeble by the day!
- **Distractions.** Too often we are distracted, and are affected by what we see, TV, videos, I pads, and I Phones. We usually do the opposite of what Paul says here – we focus our eyes on what we see, not on what is unseen. I don’t think many of us think about heaven, unless we’re about to die. It’s too far from us. Yet the truth is we could find ourselves in heaven tomorrow, since life is in God’s hands and not ours.
- **Sin.** Open to Genesis 3. Sin’s ever before us. It’s been there as long as man’s been present! Verses 10-13, *“And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”* “Daily we sin much and are in need of forgiveness.”
- **Satan.** Don’t kid yourselves. The devil has it in for you and this congregation as well. He wants to use the disappointments that come in life to separate you from other Christians, and from God. So stay alert! From 1 Peter 5:9, *“Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”*

We lose heart because we know that our focus is on the wrong things rather than staying close to God. We realize it and feel the guilt of not doing what God demands. It

almost makes us feel we're lost. But God has something better planned for us as His children.

You do not lose heart when you focus on:

- **God.** What a good thing to realize that God is so constant. He's always there and all blessings come from Him. 25 times in Psalms, we hear about His steadfast, unending love for us.
- **Jesus.** Jesus showed what love is all about when He came and suffered and died for you. John 15:13, "*Greater love has no man than this, that someone lay down His life for His friends. You are My friends!*" He paid the price for you! Your value increases as you follow Him. Gifts overflow!
- **Things Unseen.** Focusing on things unseen is fundamental to faith. Jesus is the unseen object of faith. God is the unseen Father of faith. The Holy Spirit is the unseen proof of faith. When you catch a vision of the invisible God and know He's present in everything, it stabilizes your actions. It can calm the rough seas of your soul.
- **Service.** We have such a wonderful Savior, we shouldn't have any problem sharing what He's done for us with the world. Telling of all the actions He took for us in love, we can share the peace we've received that has changed our lives!
- **Heaven.** Some thoughts about heaven from some famous people. "*Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.*" Mark Twain. "*We may be surprised at the people we find in heaven. God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low.*" Desmond Tutu. Look at 5:1, "*For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*" This life isn't all there is. As beautiful as it sometimes can be, God has promised us a better place!

Just remember, we'll spend far more time on the other side of death – in eternity – than we will here. Man has this instinct that longs for something beyond. This is because God has designed us that way. We will never feel completely satisfied on earth, because we were made for more.

If you put your focus on and trust in Jesus Christ today, you'll spend the rest of eternity with Him. He is the only Savior. God's prepared to save you and bring you home.

Look, what's keeping us moving forward as God's faithful people is the hope for our eternal home in heaven: a building not made by hands – permanent, solid, sure. The problems of this life are fleeting and should be turned over to Jesus. We need to live as hopeful people, alive and joyful as God's own!