

KNOWING GOD

"IN MY SUFFERINGS"

January 25, 2021

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18 NKJV - (16) Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. **(17)** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, **(18)** while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

How do we respond to the difficulties we face? Do they turn us away from faith or drive us deeper into our faith? Do we isolate ourselves or seek solace from the community around us?

God never promises that life will be easy on this side of eternity, but God does promise to be present with us through the Holy Spirit. He is our comfort in the storms of life; we are held by God, and he is much bigger than any of our problems. He also connects us with a community of believers who hold one another up in times of struggle. We never have to go it alone.

The apostle Paul was very familiar with suffering. You see, Paul understood that on his own he was far worse off than he ever dared to imagine. On his own, he had no hope of ever earning his way to God. He knew he could never *DO* enough to become *GOOD* enough. His only hope was found in the good and perfect work of Jesus Christ on his behalf. Through Jesus, Paul discovered a lasting hope no matter the circumstances. You see, this hope wasn't built on the things of this world; things that change, disappoint, and fade away. These things are here today and gone tomorrow. Paul's hope was built on things unseen, things eternal. This is a hope that lasts.

Look at the world around you. The world is broken and crying out for hope. Every disaster and violent outburst reminds us of our need for redemption, for a Savior. Every headline highlights the devastating power of sin; explaining how a perfect, flawless world became broken. Paul understood that control and comfort are just temporary illusions. We can chase them, but eventually, they will slip through our fingers. Life will trip us up. Then what will you do? When suffering hits, there's one choice: run towards God or run away. Paul chose Christ, and he found hope. What will you choose?

Therefore, in light of the power of God at work on our behalf, "We don't give up!"

SCRIPTURE READING

1 PETER 4:1

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The children of God should be growing spiritually younger even though they are growing physically older.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"