
COURAGE FOR YOUR MINISTRY: Learning from the Patterns of Paul (2 Corinthians 4 and 5)

I. **God is in This — So Don't Give Up!** (2 Corinthians 4: 1-6)

We have a Great Ministry by God's Mercy; therefore, we do not lose heart

We have an Honest Ministry (vs. 1-4)

- Our Courage (vs.1-2a)
- Our Walk (vs. 2b)
- Our Opposition (vs. 3-4)

We have an Honorable Ministry (vs. 5-6)

- Our Message (vs. 5a)
- Our Posture (vs. 5b)
- Our Hearts (vs. 6)

II. **God Will Keep Us Forever — So Don't Give Up!** (2 Corinthians 4:6-18)

We have a Victorious Ministry; therefore, we do not lose heart

We have a Victorious Ministry (1 Corinthians 4:6-18)

A. _____ over **Darkness** (vs.6)

📖 **2 Corinthians 4:6** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

B. _____ over **Weakness** (vs. 7)


📖 **2 Corinthians 4:7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

TREASURE ⇨ _____

EARTHEN VESSELS ⇨ _____


POWER ⇨ _____

C. _____ over **Discouragement** (vs. 8-9)


 **2 Corinthians 4:8-9** We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—

1. Pressured but **NOT** _____ (8a)
2. Perplexed but **NOT** _____ (8b)
3. Persecuted but **NOT** _____ (9a)
4. Prostrated but **NOT** _____ (9b)

D. _____ over **Death** (vs. 10-12)

 **2 Corinthians 4:10-12** always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death is working in us, but life in you.

E. _____ over **Sight** (vs. 13-18)

 **2 Corinthians 4:13-18** And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, 14 knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. 15 For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. 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.



- _____ — Our inward man needs to be renewed each and every day – "*day by day*"
- _____ — "*are working for us,*" not against us; therefore, we can embrace them as a friend, not an enemy.
- _____ — God abundantly supplies us with a truckload of long-term benefits as noted by the numerous superlatives: "*far*"; "*more*"; "*exceeding*"; and "*eternal*" are richly provided in His grace.
- _____ — The long-term, eternal benefits far outweigh the short-term inconveniences, which are "for a moment." Therefore, we are called upon to simply cooperate with Him in child-like faith by focusing our minds on the unseen things.