

# 2 Corinthians Chapter 4

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## Points in 2 Corinthians Chapter 4

1. To appreciate the "honest" nature of Paul's ministry
2. To understand why some people are so blinded to the obvious
3. To gain insight into why God allows His children to suffer
4. To glean Paul's secret for not "losing heart" (getting discouraged)

# 1. Why does Paul not "lose heart"?

A. We have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart

B. Paul has the ministry under the guidance of God

(2 Cor 3: 7 – 18)

C. Paul **boldly** (2 Cor 3: 12) proclaims the Gospel under God's grace and mercy (1Tim 1: 12-13)

## 2 Corinthians 4:1

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we **have this ministry**, as we **received mercy**, we do not lose heart,

2. In renouncing the hidden things of shame, what two things does Paul not do?

A. Not walking in craftiness

B. Not adulterating the word of God

## 2 Corinthians 4:2

2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, *not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God*, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

2. In renouncing the hidden things of shame, what two things does Paul not do?

1. Anyone who talks about Jesus Christ –  
They stand in God's presence. – He hears every word.

2. When you tell people about Christ, be careful not to distort the message to please your audience.

3. Proclaim the truth of God's Word.

### 3A. To whom is the gospel "veiled"?

A. Those that are perishing

**B. Who has blinded them?**

The god of this world

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, **it is veiled to those who are perishing,**

<sup>4</sup> in whose case **the god of this world has blinded the minds** of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

## 4A. Who does Paul preach?

A. We do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord

B. How does he view himself?

Your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

**2 Corinthians 4:5**

5 For ***we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord***, and ourselves as ***your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.***

## 5. How is the "light" that God has commanded to be shone in his heart described?

A. The Light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

B. The Light in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ

### **2 Corinthians 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the ***light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.***

### **2 Corinthians 4:6**

<sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give ***the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.***



5. How is the "light" that God has commanded to be shone in his heart described?

## **Genesis 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

## **Colossians 1:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,  
<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## 6. How does Paul refer to the Gospel?

Treasure in earthen vessels

**2 Corinthians 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> But we have this **treasure in earthen vessels**, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

## 7. What four examples does Paul use to describe how God's power had worked in him?

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

8 we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;

9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

1. We are afflicted in every way

1. not crushed

2. Perplexed

2. not despairing

3. Persecuted

3. not forsaken

4. Struck down

4. not destroyed

## 7. What four examples does Paul use to describe how God's power had worked in him?

### 1 Peter 4:12-14

<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

<sup>13</sup> but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

<sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

8. Why were Paul and others allowed to suffer for Christ?

Life of Jesus may be manifested in our body.

## 2 Corinthians 4:10-11

<sup>10</sup> always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the **life of Jesus** also **may be manifested in our body.**

<sup>11</sup> For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the **life of Jesus** also **may be manifested in our mortal flesh.**

## 9. Who benefited by the things Paul suffered?

The Corinthians

### 2 Corinthians 4:12

<sup>12</sup> So death works in us, but *life in you.*

### 2 Corinthians 4:15

<sup>15</sup> For all things *are for your sakes,* so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

10A. Who does Paul refer to as having the same “spirit of faith”?

Paul has the same attitude and the same conviction about the power as did the psalmist in Psalm 116 who in the mist of his troubles, confidently asked God to deliver him out of his troubles.

## 2 Corinthians 4:13-14

<sup>13</sup> But having the same *spirit of faith*, according to what is written, **"I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE,"** we also **believe**, therefore we also speak,

<sup>14</sup> **knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.**

10A. Who does Paul refer to as having the same “spirit of faith”?

## Psalm 116:1-2

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, because He hears My voice *and* my supplications.

<sup>2</sup> Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I shall call *upon Him* as long as I live.



10A. Who does Paul refer to as having the same “spirit of faith”?

## **Psalm 116:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> For You have rescued my soul from death, My eyes from tears, My feet from stumbling.

<sup>9</sup> I shall walk before the LORD In the land of the living.

<sup>10</sup> I believed when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."

## 10B. What will God do for man?

Paul believed that God who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.

### 2 Corinthians 4:13-14

<sup>13</sup> But having the same *spirit of faith*, according to what is written, **"I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE,"** we also *believe*, therefore we also speak,

<sup>14</sup> ***knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.***

11. Why did Paul not "lose heart" when his outward man was perishing?

The inner man is being renewed daily by growing spiritually.

## 2 Corinthians 4:15-16

<sup>15</sup> For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

11. Why did Paul not "lose heart" when his outward man was perishing?

## Romans 7:22-25

<sup>22</sup> For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,

<sup>23</sup> but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

<sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

## 12. In what two ways does Paul contrast his affliction and the glory to come?

1. Momentary vs. eternal
2. Light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory

### **2 Corinthians 4:17**

<sup>17</sup> For *momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory* far beyond all comparison,

12. In what two ways does Paul contrast his affliction and the glory to come?

**Our affliction is light:**

1. Compared to what others suffer
2. Compared to what we deserve
3. Compared to what Jesus suffered for us
4. Compared to the blessings we enjoy
5. As we experience the sustaining power of God's grace
6. When we see the glory that it leads to

**13. What does Paul keep his focus on?**

A. Things which are seen are temporal

B. Things unseen, which are eternal

## **2 Corinthians 4:18**

<sup>18</sup> while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the **things which are seen are temporal**, but the **things which are not seen are eternal.**

# 13. What does Paul keep his focus on?

## Temporal

1. The things of this life - poverty, want, care, persecution, trial, etc.
2. Wealth, pleasure and fame
3. All will fade away

## Eternal

1. The things which are not seen - The glories of heaven.
2. God is eternal; not to leave us as our earthly friends do.
3. The Savior is eternal - to be our everlasting friend.
4. The joys of heaven are eternal; There shall be no interruption; no night; no cessation; no end. Heaven and all its joys shall be everlasting