

Light and Momentary Troubles

6-7-26

2Corinthians 4:16 (NIV)

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

As we all can attest to, no matter what we do, we are outwardly wasting away. However, God tells us not to lose heart, because inwardly we are being renewed day by day. Also, Chapter 5 tells us we are looking forward to a new glorious body spending eternity with Jesus. This inward renewal also results in eternal rewards.

Personally, I believe this earthly renewal also impacts our heavenly assignments. Thus, we should take this inward renewal seriously. 2 Corinthians 3:18, tells us how to participate in this inward renewal.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

By beholding Jesus, reading the Bible, praying, obeying, we are being transformed.

From one degree to another, we are being renewed day by day. In Romans 12:2, God tells us do not conform to this world but be transformed by the renewing of our mind.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

This most certainly includes reading the Bible. By renewing our minds, inwardly being renewed, we can experience, test, and approve God's will by our actions. With our eyes on Jesus, we can put our troubles in perspective, learn from them, and find strength to endure.

2Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

God knows we go through hard things. However, HE is telling us not to quit, because our troubles are light and momentary in relation to all eternity. Plus, they are serving to achieve an eternal glory that far outweighs all affliction.

2Corinthians 1:19 (NIV)

But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

The sufferings have a benefit that is beyond our wildest imagination. Glory for eternity!

Romans 8:18 (NIV)

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

The sufferings endured in this life are light compared with the splendor of the eternal life to come. The glory to come far outweighs the accumulation of all the affliction of the present. Since these light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory, we fix our eyes on Jesus. Through Jesus we have the promises.

2Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)

So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

The unseen is the eternal reality. Therefore, in faith we set our sight on the unseen.

Colossians 3:1-2 (NIV)

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

We fix our eyes on the unseen. Our actions do not go unnoticed by God. There is a reward for our endurance. Our actions of faith will ultimately be judge at the Bema seat of Christ.

2Corinthians 5:10 (NIV)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

This is not to determine moral right and wrong, but to assess what has been valuable versus worthless for Christ's kingdom.

However, praise Jesus, our salvation is secure. This is where everything starts.

1Corinthians 2:2 (NIV)

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.