

***“Renewed Day By Day”***  
***2 Corinthians 4:17-18***

**Introduction:**

1. This Morning - We're Going To Continue:
  - Our Study Through 2 Corinthians:
    - So - Please Turn There With Me - To 2 Corinthians 4:
      - Where In 4:16 - Paul Wrote - “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day!”
2. This Verse Teaches:
  - The Condition Of Every Christian!
    - First - Your “Outward Man” Is Perishing!
      - Your “Earthen Vessel” - As A Human Being - Is Fragile & Frail & Will Someday Completely Fail!
        - The Daily Pressures & Problems In Your Life Constantly Wear On You!
          - And Will One Day Wear You Out!
            - But - There Is Still Hope For You - If You Are A Christian!
    - Because - 4:16 - “Though [Your] Outward Man Perish, Yet The Inward Man – [Your] Inward Man – Is Renewed Day By Day!”
      - Your “Inward Man” Is The Spiritual Nature Given To You By God When You Are Saved That Makes You “A New Creature!”
        - In The Next Chapter - Paul Writes - 5:17 - “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!”
          - And No Matter What Kind Of Struggle Or Suffering You Are Going Through:
            - You Can Be & Are Being “Renewed!”
3. Even As Isaiah Described In:
  - Isaiah 40:31 - “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint!”
    - Have You Experienced This Renewal:
      - In Your Life This Week?
        - There Are Times When You May Not Feel “Renewed!”
    - But - Paul Wants Us To See:
      - The Bigger Picture!
        - Than Just The Struggles & Suffering:
          - That Wear On Our “Jars Of Clay!”
      - Simon Kistemaker:
        - “The Inner Self That Is Daily Being Renewed Does Not Lose Heart But Looks At Life From God’s Point Of View!”
          - And In The Last 6 Verses Of 2 Corinthians 4, You Can See Your Life:
            - With All Of Its Pressures, Perplexities, Pursuits, And Even Pains:
              - From God’s Point Of View!
4. In 4:13-15 - We Learned That:
  - Your Spiritual Renewal Is:
    - A Divine Renewal!
      - And God Uses:
        - Your Trust In Him!
        - Your Triumph Through Christ!
        - And The Truth About His Grace:
          - To Renew Your “Inward Man!”
  - In 4:17-18 - We Will Learn This Morning That:
    - Your Spiritual Renewal Is:
      - A Daily Renewal!
        - 4:16-18 - “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. / For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; / 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!”
    - Your Daily Renewal:

- Will Come Through:
  - The Daily Function:
    - **Of** Your Struggles In Life! (4:17) As Well As:
  - The Daily Focus:
    - **In** Your Struggles Of Life! (4:18)

5. Now - As We Look At These Verses:

- 4:17 Depends On 4:18!
  - This Means That When:
    - Your Daily Focus:
      - Reflects The Focus Of 4:18 - Then:
    - The Daily Function:
      - Of Your Struggles - Will Reflect:
        - 4:17!
  - So - We Are Going To Look At These Verses:
    - In Reverse Order!
      - So - How Is Your “Inward Man” Being “Renewed Day By Day” If You Are A Christian?
        - Because Of:

1. **The Daily Focus:**

- In The Struggles Of Your Life!
  - 4:18 - “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!”
    - You Need To Learn To See Things:
      - The Way God Sees Them!
        - To “Look” Here Means To “Fix Your Eyes & Your Attention” On Something - To Gaze On It - Even To The Point Of Obsessing Over It! **IE:** Lord Of The Rings - The Gaze & Obsession Over The Ring!
      - And In This Verse - We Discover:
        - The Objects Of Our Attention!
          - A Christian Will Learn To Look At & Gaze Upon:
            - The Visible Things:
              - Of This World - Less & Less!
                - “While We Look Not At The Things Which Are Seen!”
              - This Includes All Of The:
                - Physical & Material & Natural Things:
                  - That We Can Experience:
                    - With Our Physical Senses!
                - But This Does Not Mean That You’re Not Allowed To Look At Them!
                  - Because Many Of The Things In This World:
                    - God Has Given To Us Can Be A Blessing & A Delight! **IE:** Spring Flowers!
                      - “Who Giveth Us Richly All Things To Enjoy!” (1 Timothy 6:17)
                  - It Means That You Must Not Obsess Over The Things You See & Sense!
                    - They Must Not Hold Your Gaze & Attention! Because:
                - Instead - You Will Learn To Look At & Gaze Upon:
                  - The Invisible Things:
                    - More & More!
                      - “But At Things Which Are Not Seen!”
                    - Paul Is Talking About Spiritual Things & Spiritual Truths!
                      - Things Like God Himself!
                        - “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory!” (1 Peter 1:8)
                      - Things Like God’s Grace & Goodness!
                        - “Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ!” (Ephesians 1:3)
                      - Even Things Like God’s Glory!
                    - These Things Cannot Be Seen With Your Eyes:
                      - But They Can Be “Looked” Upon With Your Mind & Heart!
                  - Imagine What The Things In This World:

- Will Start To Look Like When:
  - Your Attention:
    - Is “Not At The Things Which Are Seen, But At The Things Which Are Not Seen!”
- Imagine What The Things In This World:
  - Will Start To Look Like When:
    - You - “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth!” (Colossians 3:2)
- Imagine What The Things In This World:
  - Will Start To Look Like When:
    - You - “Seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness!” (Matthew 6:33)
- This Is What It Means When:
  - Your Attention & Your Affections & Your Aspirations Are Focused On “Invisible Things!”
  - We Also See In 4:18:
- The Occasion For Our Attention!
  - God Has Given Us Good Reason:
    - To Keep Looking At His “Invisible Things!”
    - Because:
  - The Visible Things:
    - Are Temporary!
      - “For The Things Which Are Seen Are Temporal!”
      - They Are Temporary & Only For A Season! **IE:** And Seasons Come & Seasons Go! Spring This Week!
    - Even Though It Seems & Feels Like:
      - The Things In This World:
        - Are All There Is!
        - They Are Temporary!
        - But:
  - The Invisible Things:
    - Are Timeless!
      - “But The Things Which Are Not Seen Are Eternal!”
      - They Will Last Because God Himself Will Last!
    - Even Though It May Seem Like & Feel Like:
      - The Things Of God:
        - Will Never Be / Never Happen!
        - They Will! And They Will Last Forever! Timeless!
- Is This Your Daily Focus?
  - Are You Seeing Things:
    - The Way God Sees Them?
      - As Your Focus & Attention Reflects What We Find In This Verse:
      - Then:

## 2. ***The Daily Function:***

- Of Your Struggles In Life:
  - Will Start To Reflect - 4:17 - “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!”
  - As Helen Lemmel Once Wrote:
    - O soul, are you weary and troubled?
    - No light in the darkness you see?
    - There’s light for a look at the Savior,
    - And life more abundant and free!
    - Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
    - Look full in His wonderful face,
    - And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
    - In the light of His glory and grace!
  - As You “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” - Then:
    - All Of Your “Afflictions” In This Life:
      - Will Take On A Whole New Function!
      - They Won’t Just Wear On You Until You Wear Out!

- Instead - You Will See:

- The True Condition:
  - Of Your Afflictions!
    - Even Though The Struggles You Are Going Through Are Real & Difficult & Painful!
    - God Will Help You To See:
  - The True Nature Of:
    - Their Difficulty!
      - They Are Common Afflictions!
        - Even Though They May Seem Unique To You - Even Though It May Seem Like Noone Has Ever Gone Through What You Are Going Through - And Noone Understands!
    - The Reality Is:
      - Your Afflictions Are Common Among Men! So Common, In Fact, That:
        - Jesus Himself Is “Touched With The Feeling Of Our Infirmities!” (Hebrews 4:15)
      - And He Will Also Help You To See:
- The True Nature Of:
  - Their Duration!
    - Your Afflictions Are “But For A Moment!” – “Momentary!”
      - In James 4:14 - Life Is Described As A Vapor - “For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away!”
  - If Your Life Is Like A Vapor:
    - Then What About The Afflictions In Your Life? Even Less Than A Vapor!
      - And So - For A Christian - Psalm 30:5 Will Always Prove True - “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning!”
  - Even Though Your Afflictions May Feel:
    - Like They Will Last Forever!
      - The Reality Is That They Are “But For A Moment!”
      - You Also Can See:
- The True Nature Of:
  - Their Degree!
    - Your Afflictions Are “Light!”
      - Even Though Your Afflictions May Feel Like They Are A Heavy Burden & Will Overwhelm You!
  - The Reality Is That They Are “Light!”
    - Compared To What God Has In Store For You, If You His Child:
      - They Are Lighter Than The Wind!
  - Romans 8:18 - “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us!”
    - But Not Only Can You See The True Condition Of Your Afflictions, You Can Also See:
- The True Course:
  - Of Your Afflictions!
    - 4:17 - “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!”
      - God Is Using Your Struggles & Suffering:
        - To Bring About In Your Life:
  - A Greater Destiny!
    - A Destiny Of Glory!
      - This Is Your Future!
    - Philippians 3:20-21 - “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: / Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself!”
      - And This Destiny Will Come With:
  - A Greater Duration:
    - Than The Duration Of Any Of Your Trials & Afflictions Today!
      - Your Glory Will Be:
        - An Eternal Glory!

- And Paul Wants You To See The Difference!
- Your Affliction Is Momentary!
  - Your Glory Will Be Eternal!
    - This Truth Should Renew Your Spirit Day By Day!
    - Even More - Your Destiny Will Come In:
- A Greater Degree:
  - Than The Degree Of Any Of Your Trials & Afflictions Today!
    - Your Glory Will Be:
      - A “Weighty” / “Heavy” Glory!
        - **IE:** The Heavier Something Is, The Harder It Is To Be Blown Over In The Storm!
  - So It Is With The Promise Of Glory!
    - Your Affliction Is Light!
      - Your Glory Is Heavy!
        - But What Makes It So Heavy & Strong?
- The True Controller:
  - Of Your Afflictions!
    - It Is The Lord:
      - Who Can Take What Seems So Heavy To You In Your Life:
        - And Make It Light!
          - Because It Is He Who Supports You With His Everlasting Arms!
      - Deuteronomy 33:27 - “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms!”
    - It Is The Lord:
      - Who Can Use What Seems Like A Great Storm In Your Life & Turn It Into A Refreshing Breeze - To Bless & To Benefit His People!
    - It Is The Lord:
      - Who Is Ultimately In Charge:
        - And In Control!
  - And He Is Using Your Afflictions:
    - To Bring You To Your Final Destination!
      - And When That Happens:
        - Your Glory Will Be All The More Glorious!
- And When You Keep Your Daily Focus:
  - On The Lord - And The “Things Which Are Not Seen!”
    - 4:18 - Then This Will Be The Daily Function:
      - Of Your Daily Struggles & Trials!
        - **IE:** They Will Be Like The Wind In Your Sails!
  - But For The Christian:
    - There Is No Threat:
      - Of Being Overwhelmed & Overturned By The “Momentary & Light Winds” Of Your Affliction!
        - Because Jesus Himself Is In The Boat With You!
          - And The Stronger The Winds – The Faster You Will Sail!
  - And When You Finally Reach:
    - The Shores Of Heaven:
      - Jesus Will Then Say - “Peace Be Still!”
        - And The Things That Are Invisible To You Now – Will Become Visible!
        - And You Will Experience His “Eternal Weight Of Glory!”

## **Conclusion:**

1. So - Let These Truths:
  - Renew Your Heart & Spirit:
    - Today!
  - Remember:
    - The Function Of Your Trials & Afflictions!
      - 4:17 - “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!”

- Remember:

- The Focus In Your Trials & Afflictions!

- 4:18 - "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!"

2. And Keep Your Gaze:

- Upon The "Captain Of Your Salvation!" (Hebrews 2:10)

- The Lord Jesus Christ!

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