

2 Corinthians 4:13-18

2 Corinthians 5:1-9

13 Yet we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, I have believed, and therefore have I spoken. We too believe, and therefore we speak, [Ps. 116:10.]

14 Assured that He Who raised up the Lord Jesus will raise us up also with Jesus and bring us [along] with you into His presence.

15 For all [these] things are [taking place] for your sake, so that the more grace (divine favor and spiritual blessing) extends to more and more people *and* multiplies through the many, the more thanksgiving may increase [and redound] to the glory of God.

16 Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying *and* wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day.

17 For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing *and* producing *and* achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!],

18 Since we consider *and* look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless *and* everlasting. **2 Corinthians 4:13-18 AMPC**

- Regardless of the situation, Paul says, “We do not lose heart!” (v16)
 - The outer man is decaying...
 - This word for decaying means ruined, wasted, consumed, or corrupted or destroyed.
 - Yet, our inner man is being renewed day by day...His mercies are fresh every morning! (v16)
 - Paul refers to the troubles he was dealing with as ‘momentary light afflictions’...
 - Those ‘afflictions’ are producing an eternal weight of glory.
 - Extremely above the extreme.
 - Immeasurably beyond measure.
 - This happens ‘while’ we look not at the things that are seen but at the things that are not seen. (v17-18)

1 NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see *and* the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]. **Hebrews 11:1 AMPC**

7 [Prompted] by faith Noah, being forewarned by God concerning events of which as yet there was no visible sign, took heed *and* diligently *and* reverently constructed *and* prepared an ark for the deliverance of his own family. By this [his faith which relied on God] he passed judgment *and* sentence on the world's unbelief and became an heir *and* possessor of righteousness (that relation of being right into which God puts the person who has faith). **Hebrews 11:7 AMPC**

24 [Aroused] by faith Moses, when he had grown to maturity *and* become great, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

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25 Because he preferred to share the oppression [suffer the hardships] *and* bear the shame of the people of God rather than to have the fleeting enjoyment of a sinful life.

26 He considered the contempt *and* abuse *and* shame [borne for] the Christ (the Messiah Who was to come) to be greater wealth than all the treasures of Egypt, for he looked forward *and* away to the reward (recompense).

27 [Motivated] by faith he left Egypt behind him, being unawed *and* undismayed by the wrath of the king; for he never flinched *but* held staunchly to his purpose *and* endured steadfastly as one who gazed on Him Who is invisible. **Hebrews 11:24-27 AMPC**

20 But we are citizens of the state (commonwealth, homeland) which is in heaven, and from it also we earnestly *and* patiently await [the coming of] the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] Savior,

21 Who will transform *and* fashion anew the body of our humiliation to conform to *and* be like the body of His glory *and* majesty, by exerting that power which enables Him even to subject everything to Himself. **Philippians 3:20-21 AMPC**

1For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, 3inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. 4For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. 5Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge. 6Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— 7for we walk by faith, not by sight— 8we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. 9Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. **2 Corinthians 5:1-9 NASB**

- When we 'put off' our earthly 'tent', we have building from God!
 - Will we have mansions?? See me when you get there!
 - But we certainly will not have mortuaries!
 - A home, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (How cool is that?!) (v1)
- We groan (v2) and again in v4, it is part of the human condition until what is mortal will be 'swallowed up' by life!

7 For we walk by faith [we regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, with trust and holy fervor; thus we walk] not by sight *or* appearance. 8 [Yes] we have confident *and* hopeful courage and are pleased rather to be away from home out of the body and be at home with the Lord. 9 Therefore, whether we are at home [on earth away from Him] or away from home [and with Him], we are constantly ambitious *and* strive earnestly to be pleasing to Him. **2 Corinthians 5:7-9 AMPC**

But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. **1 Corinthians 15:54 NASB**

- The Holy Spirit is the pledge, the down payment for all this.
- Be always of good courage, whether we are home in the body and absent from the Lord, or home with the Lord and absent from the body. (v6-8)

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- Either way, our ambition is to be pleasing to the Lord.

14For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. 16Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. 17Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **2 Corinthians 5:14-20 NASB**

- Paul talks so much about the eternal dimension and then turns to how we are to live here on earth.
- The love of God ‘controls’ us, that’s quite a statement. (v14-15)
 - The love of God compels, drives, urges him on. The ‘word’ means to enclose or hold in...it is like this...the love of God was holding him in ‘custody’...it was voluntary but he ‘says’ I cannot, not love people.
 - One died for all therefore all died...so from now on we should live for Him.
- We are new creations, new creatures, old things have passed...we have been given new life, the life of God in us. (v16-17)
- We have been reconciled to God and now have the ministry of reconciliation. (v18-19)
 - Most folks don’t know they need reconciled to God, but when they learn they are separated from Him, that changes.
- We are now His ambassadors...(v20-21)
- This is one of the most amazing verses in the Bible. (v21)