PERSONAL NOTES

Big Idea to Remember

We do not lose heart because God's power sustains us, Christ's resurrection secures our hope, and His promised glory far outweighs our present hardships.

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

— 2 Corinthians 4:16 (NIV)



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A LONG OBEDIENCE:

Not Losing Heart

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

SERMON NOTES

The Power that Sustains — vv. 7-12

The Treasure and the Clay Jars (vv. 7-9)

➔ God entrusts the glorious treasure of the gospel to ordinary, fragile people so that His surpassing power, rather than our strength, will be unmistakable.

➔ Our confidence does not rest in our ability to withstand every hardship, but in God's power to sustain us through them.

The Power of Christ at Work through Our Suffering (vv. 10-12)

➔ God does not merely sustain His people despite their weakness. He often works through that very weakness to accomplish His purposes.

➔ Sometimes the clearest testimony to Christ's power comes not from a life free of difficulty, but from a life sustained by Him through it.

The Promise that Secures — vv. 13-15

Faith That Continues to Speak — v. 13

➔ Genuine faith trusts God's Word and testifies to Christ, even when doing so is costly.

Confidence in the Resurrection — v. 14

➔ Our confidence rests upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ and God's promise that those who belong to Him will share in His resurrection.

➔ Our confidence in tomorrow rests on what God accomplished through Jesus Christ.

Grace That Produces Thanksgiving — v. 15

➔ God can use our faithful obedience, even amid hardship, to encourage others, extend His grace, and bring glory to Himself.

➔ Perseverance means more than enduring life's hardships. It means continuing to fulfill the calling God has given us.

The Glory that Awaits — vv. 16-18

Outwardly Decaying, Inwardly Renewed — v. 16

➔ Though our physical strength weakens, God renews us inwardly through His Spirit.

➔ Never confuse diminishing physical ability with diminishing spiritual worth.

Present Afflictions and Eternal Glory — v. 17

➔ Our present sufferings, however severe, cannot compare with the eternal glory God has promised His people.

Looking into Eternity — v. 18

➔ We must interpret our present circumstances in light of God's eternal truth rather than judging His faithfulness by what we experience.

FIVE MINUTES IN GOD'S WORD

A Seven-Day Bible Reading Plan

Five minutes. One passage. With God.

- **Monday: Strength Beyond Our Own**
  Read: Isaiah 40:27-31
  Reflect: How does God's promise to renew the strength of those who hope in Him encourage me when I feel weary or overwhelmed?
- **Tuesday: Trusting God in Trouble**
  Read: Psalm 46:1-11
  Reflect: How can remembering God's presence and power help me remain confident in Him when my circumstances feel uncertain or threatening?
- **Wednesday: Hope That Does Not Disappoint**
  Read: Romans 5:1-5
  Reflect: How can God use the hardships I experience to deepen my perseverance, strengthen my character, and establish my hope in Christ?
- **Thursday: An Inheritance That Cannot Perish**
  Read: 1 Peter 1:3-9
  Reflect: How does the living hope secured through Christ's resurrection help me remain faithful when my faith is tested?
- **Friday: Fixing Our Hearts on Eternity**
  Read: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10
  Reflect: How should the promise of eternal life with Christ shape my priorities, decisions, and perseverance in the present?
- **Saturday: Giving Thanks in Every Season**
  Read: Psalm 92:1-15
  Reflect: How can remembering God's faithfulness cultivate gratitude and encourage me to continue bearing fruit for Him throughout every season of life?
- **Sunday: Grace and Gratitude**
  Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
  Reflect: How can gratitude for God's grace shape the way I encourage others, pursue what is good, and remain faithful to Christ in every circumstance?