

Pastor Wade Brown
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:16-18



DISCOVERING THE KEYS TO ENDURANCE

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The Keys

- 1. Value the Inner You over the Outer You. (v. 16)**
- 2. Value the Future over the Present (v. 17-18)**

Questions

1. Pastor Wade began his teaching by sharing a recent experience he had in line at the bank. While he sat and waited, the other teller lines moved freely. Frustrated with his progress, he switched lines only to watch his first line move quicker than his new line. Many of us often change direction/course when our class, job, relationship, etc. become challenging. What is your usual response to challenges? Do you look to change course? Do you seek a way out? Or are you a fighter? Explain.
2. As followers of Christ, we are not exempt from trials, challenges, and difficulties. To the contrary, Jesus tells us the exact opposite in John 16:33, *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* Understanding that "we will have trouble" as followers of Christ, what does it mean to you that Jesus has "overcome the world?" Discuss.
3. Pastor Wade reminded us that we are all wasting away – our bones are more brittle than they once were, our skin is less elastic, and our hair is likely thinner and more grey than it was when we were younger. The inner you, however, is being renewed day-by-day. How is God currently renewing you? How are you experiencing God's renewing presence and power in your life? Explain and give at least one example.

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 5:10

4. Wade highlighted three key truths for us to meditate on and rest in regarding 1 Peter 5:10:
 - a. God is the God of all grace > He is sufficient
 - b. He is the One who cares for you > You are the object of His affection
 - c. After you've suffered a little while > Your situation will change.When – not if – we suffer it is never in vein. God is at work producing life and joy and peace and Christ-likeness! Which of the three truths listed above is the hardest for you to acknowledge and to rest in during your time of suffering? Why?
5. In verses 17-18, Paul encourages believers to focus on the future glory that God has in store for us instead of our past struggles or current trials. When things are difficult in your life, are you able to think and live for the future? If so, how? If not, why is this difficult for you?
6. Pastor Wade used the illustration of "roughing it" camping. He said that we are "roughing it" right now in view of 2 Corinthians 5:1-8. Our tent is leaking—and it's raining! Yet in spite of our current "roughing it" situation, God is at work in our lives as we endure. Using the A through F grading scale, rate yourself on how you're handling this "roughing it" camping season? How is God at work drawing you closer to Him and His purposes?

Action Point: Take time this week to memorize 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.