

2 Corinthians 4

English Standard Version

4:1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God,^[a] we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice^[b] cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants^[c] for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, 14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. 15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self^[d] is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Week Four
Making Brokenness Beautiful
II Corinthians 4

I face an enemy daily, sometimes hourly. Perhaps you know him too. Many are his names. So ubiquitous, so pervasive, so insidious is he that the New Testament identifies him six times as "Losing Heart." Losing Heart invites us to embrace discouragement, agree to quitting, welcome defeat. (Quote from: Church inserts Website)

What does it mean to lose heart?

The Greek word for lose heart comes from two words combined – evil plus not. It means to not give into _____.

- Losing heart means that we cave into evil by refusing to live by faith in the character and promises of God (Hebrews 11:6).
- Losing heart means that we stop fixing our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).
- Losing heart means that we stop _____ on the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26).
- Losing heart means that we no longer live in _____ dependence on God (John 5:19; Proverbs 3:5-6).

We do not fail from a sudden blow out but from a series of _____.

(The above is quoted from Pastor Steve King's blog)

Reason's We Lose Heart:

1. Confusion (1-6)

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God,[a] we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice[b] cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants[c] for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Many lose heart because they are confused about the nature of this life. We expect an idyllic life with little opposition. We can reduce our faith to slogans, sayings and easy answers to everything. This approach will set us up to lose heart. The journey of life is a battle between light and darkness. Satan uses underhanded, disgraceful means to twist the Word of God to darken people's mind. The Bible refers to the Devil as, "the author of confusion." (I Cor. 14) If we fail to realize this truth, we will walk into a battle thoroughly unprepared. We will be greatly disappointed when our misguided expectations of the Christian life crumble before our eyes.

Illustration: _____

How We Win

- Jesus must be our _____
- Jesus light shining in our hearts as we gaze upon His _____
- We shine this light in the Darkness

2. _____ (7)

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Our View	God's View
We are _____, nothing special	We are extraordinary; created in His image, with His breath giving us life
We are _____, we often think of what we can't do	Our weakness is the perfect place for God to show His strength
We are _____, fallen people who think we've blown it	God knows this and desires to put us back together better than before
We are of _____ to God	We are _____ who God uses to show His glory; we are His Temple



There are magnificent structures erected to the glory of God all over the world. Millions upon millions travel to Rome to visit Saint Peter's. It is a beautiful, stunning architectural wonder. The sights can take your breath away. I'll never forget my first trip inside this magnificent church. I halted in the midst of the heavy traffic flow just to soak in the ambiance. I spent many hours looking at the altars, statues, frescos, and other works of art. As I left, I was overcome with one thought there is more

_____ in me than is contained in all of St. Peter's Basilica. That is true for all believers. God choose

_____ like us to be containers of His glory. All the churches on earth can't compare to the glory living in one follower of Jesus.

3. _____ (7-12)

8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

This is the big one. More people lose heart over this one than any other. When we go through time of suffering we must cling _____ to Jesus. We must also remember that suffering is one slice of a multi dimensional life. We do have great hope in the midst of suffering.

Types of Suffering	Promises to Cling
Afflicted	Not crushed
Perplexed	Not driven to despair
Persecuted	Not Abandoned
Struck Down	Not Destroyed

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We are sore pressed at every point, but not hemmed in; we are at our wit's end, but never at our hope's end; we are persecuted by men, but never abandoned by God; we are knocked down, but not knocked out. (2 Corinthians 4:8-8 Wm Barclay)

4. Lack of _____ (13-15)

13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, 14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. 15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

We are stronger than we could ever imagine. Our power is not in of ourselves it is from the Lord. The power that raised Jesus from the grave, lives within our cracked pots. This power is released via faith. Jesus promised we would receive _____ when the Holy Spirit fills our lives. When we exercise out faith, God _____ resurrection power. Jesus constant correction for His disciples was their lack of _____. Remember with the faith of a mustard seed we can move mountains. Mush of the arrows of Satan’s attacks against us are aimed directly at our faith.

5. Loss of _____

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self[d] is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

We lose perspective and lose _____ when we walk by
 _____ not by _____.

Sight	Faith
Wasting Away	Being _____
Heavy Affliction	Light Afflictions
Bleak outlook at _____ _____ problems	There is a _____ available, and a purpose to our suffering
Uncertain _____	We have a certain landing, with assurance all issues in this life will fade away with the glory of heaven.

Keep the Fire Burning:

1. **Know that you're in battle between light and darkness. The light within you will propel the darkness of the world.**
2. **You may be weak, fallen, hurting, and even confused; but that just puts you in the _____ position to be used of God. You are the _____ of the _____ of God.**
3. **Know that in times of suffering God is working. Stay close to Jesus, the church and press into prayer. There is _____ capable to overcome our _____.**
4. **The power of the Risen Jesus is available to you as you live by faith.**
5. **Do not lose perspective. We are passing through and whatever is thrown at us in this life _____ in _____ to what is ahead of us in eternal life.**