

2 Corinthians

Do Not Lose Heart!

Reading: [Luke 18:1-8](#)

Text: [2 Corinthians 4:1](#)

Introduction

A. Twice, in 2 Corinthians 4, Paul "we do not lose heart" [v. 1, 16](#)

- B. It is both strange and sad yet not uncommon that Christians "lose heart"
1. [Galatians 6:9](#) "in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."
 2. 3 aspects of "losing heart"...

1. Signs Of "Losing Heart"

A. Lack of persistent prayer life (Not so visible to others)

1. [Luke 18:1](#)—Christ equated fervent prayer with not losing heart
2. [Ephesians 6:18](#)—praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints
3. [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)—Pray without ceasing.
4. [1 Timothy 2:8](#)—I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting

B. Growing Weary in Doing Good (Visible to Others)

1. [Galatians 6:9](#)—Paul equated this with losing heart
2. [Romans 2:7](#)—eternal life (given) to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

2. Reasons Some "Lose Heart"

A. Tribulations!

1. [Ephesians 3:13](#)—Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.
2. If it's possible over his troubles, how much more over their own!
3. [Matthew 13:20-21](#)—Jesus warned that some would lose heart because of tribulations (*because they have no root*)
4. Tribulations can take different forms"
 - a. Ridicule, ostracism, even physical abuse by those of the world
 - b. Even from brethren who sin against us
 - c. Common to all: Sickness and death, Frustrations at job and home

B. Lawlessness

1. [Matthew 24:12](#)—La. will abound, the love of many will grow cold
2. "Lawlessness" is lack of respect for God in Attitude & Obedience

3. Secrets to not "Losing Heart"

A. Appreciate the glorious nature of our ministry

1. "Therefore" refers to the chapter 3. There Paul contrasted the OT w/ NT
2. [2 Corinthians 3:5-18](#)—The glory of the New more than the Old

The Old Covenant		The NEW Covenant
Of the Letter	3:6	Of the Spirit
Kills	3:6	Gives Life
Glorious	3:7-11	More glorious
Ministry of condemnation	3:9	Ministry of Righteousness
Ministry passing away	3:11	Ministry which remains
Ministry with a veil	3:12-17	Ministry which is unveiled
Ministry which hardens hearts	3:14-17	Ministry bringing Liberty
Transforms ONE	3:18	Transforms all

B. Realize the power of Christ when we are weak!

1. [2 Corinthians 4:16](#)
2. [2 Corinthians 4:8-9](#)—Paul suffered greatly for Christ
3. [2 Cor. 12:7-10](#)—Christ taught Paul this with his "thorn in the flesh"

C. Look at things not seen

1. The "far more exceeding and eternal weight of GLORY" makes our AFFLICTION Light and momentary
2. Looking at things "unseen" renewed Paul daily!

Conclusion

- A. If you have never obtained heart by obeying the gospel, don't put it off!
1. [2 Corinthians 6:2](#)—Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
 2. [Acts 2:38-39](#)—Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."
- B. If you have lost heart and need our prayers to renew your faith in the Lord, please make your way to the front right now as we sing this song.