

“Renewed Joy for Living” Part 3

January 19, 2025

Scripture Text: 2 Corinthians 4:13-17 NKJV 13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak, 14 knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus and will present *us* with you. 15 For all things *are* for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

16 Therefore, we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

VERSE 13 *And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak,*

When most of us were children, we heard the story about the birth of Jesus and a seed of faith was sewn in our hearts. We accepted the story to be true, though it was shrouded in mystery, we thought that God could do anything. We understood that He was conceived, not by man, but by the Holy Spirit to a virgin named Mary.

His coming from Heaven was to save us from our sins to live in His eternal presence. It didn't become a reality until the Holy Spirit quickened my spirits to know that if any man be in Christ (relational) he would be a new creation and therefore receive eternal life.

We testify that Jesus Christ came to save us and make us the righteousness of God by His death, burial and resurrection.

Paul testifies about his life and death experiences which God used to bring many to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. He is compelled by the Holy Spirit to speak of the power of God's grace. So should we be compelled in these last days to speak of the power of God's grace in sending Jesus Christ.

How does your relationship and belief in Christ affect people that God brings into your life? Are you a true witness of Christ in your character toward others?

VERSE 14 *knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus and will present us with you.*

Paul didn't despair because of his many trials and tribulations. He experienced the resurrection power of Christ in each near-death episode. He would encourage believers in **Philippi** **"I can do all things through Christ that Strengthens me."** Phil 4:13 NKJV To the believers in **Corinth** He said, **"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."** {2 Corinthians 12:10} Paul told the believers in **Rome** **"All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."** {Romans 8:28 NKJV}

There is no better news than what you have received concerning Jesus Christ and His desire to give all who believe in Him eternal life. **Don't wait until it's too late to share the Good News!**

VERSE 15 *For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.*

The ultimate goal of Paul's ministry to all believers was for them to experience God's amazing grace. He wrote to the believers in **Ephesus**, **"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is**

not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.” {Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV}

When we realize that we can't earn our way into heaven by doing good deeds, it should cause us to always give God thanks and share His grace with others as Christians.

Our one adversary, Satan sends all kinds of life-defeating, joy-stealing attacks to threaten the well-being and faith of God-fearing believers. Many of those attacks cause trouble, hardship, persecution, sickness, loneliness, and near-death experiences. Paul is encouraging us to stand firm in our faith rejoicing when those attacks come, reminding us that not only will we win in the end, but Jesus enables us to win now.

Paul wrote to the believers in **Thessalonica**, **“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”**
{1Thessalonians 5:18}

VERSE 16 *Therefore, we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*

Paul reminds us of our outward man, though our body is breaking down, but the abiding Holy Spirit renews us to be more effective witnesses for Jesus Christ. Through all his trials and tribulations, he learned not to focus on physical afflictions. When we look at the eternal perspective, we are encouraged to press on to fulfill our calling... for there is no substitute!

As we live with an eternal view our afflictions are light in comparison to the rewards of an eternity in the glory of Christ's presence. **Isn't that praiseworthy?** *If so, let us praise Him without hesitation! Is that okay?*

VERSE 17 *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,*

If you knew and believe that God had something far greater, than your current state of being, it should cause you to bless Him all the time. I can

image that many of those lavish and exclusive homes consumed by the fire in LA brought the reality of storing up temporal treasures **are temporary!**

I'm sure most people who lived in those beautiful hills in LA were just like some of us... thankful and trying to be good stewards of all they had achieved. They may have spent time thinking and gazing down the hills thankful. Suddenly the glory of their estate within hours was left in ashes and smoldering wood but they survived! **Praise God!**

VERSE 18 *while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

Paul again addresses the believers in **Rome**, **“I consider that the present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”** {Romans 8:18} Do you believe that God has a greater glory for you... if you do, don't allow the enemy to steal your joy of what God has promised and prepared for you in life and the next.

Applications:

Our firm belief in God's Word gives us joyful hope for a better future.

We must keep our focus on the things of eternal value.