

Treasure in Earthenware Jars

HOW TO NOT LOSE HEART

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Pew Bible p. 1144

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This priceless treasure we hold, so to speak, in a common earthenware jar—to show that the splendid power of it belongs to God and not to us.
2 Cor. 4:7 Phillips

We Do Not Lose Heart 2 Cor. 4:1,16a

What has discouraged you? When have you gotten discouraged in Christian ministry?

Despite all the hardships Paul went through, he could say, “we do not lose heart.”

Paul shows us how can we persevere in life and ministry:

1. Recharge Daily 2 Cor. 4:16b

The moment we are born, we begin to _____.

How do some people react when they realize their health is declining?

How did the awareness of decline in physical strength impact Paul’s ministry?

We pray, “Give us today our _____ bread.”

How much manna did God give the children of Israel in the wilderness?

To weather the storms of life and remain faithful in ministry, it is essential for Christians to develop and maintain a life-sustaining relationship with Jesus. How do we do this?

A lesson we can learn from our cell phones: recharge _____ daily.

2. Remember the Reward 2 Cor. 4:17

What was Paul talking about when he referred to “momentary, light affliction?” 2 Cor. 1:8-9, 4:7-11, 11:23-28

Paul could describe his long list of hardships as “momentary” and “light” because he knew that:

1) God r_____ those who suffer for Jesus' sake.
Those who suffer for Jesus' sake win e_____
glory. Matt. 5:11-12a

2) Heavenly glory will far o_____ any earthly
sufferings experienced for Jesus' sake.

The depth of our sufferings for Jesus reveal the g_____ of our reward in heaven.

3. Stay Focused

In order not to lose heart in life and in ministry we must do one more thing: stay f_____.

Focus implies deliberate, sustained concentration of a_____.

What happened to Peter when he took his eyes off Jesus as he walked on the water?

Why is it better to keep focused on things unseen rather than things seen?

Conclusion

“Therefore...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
Heb 12:1-2 NASB