Do Not Lose Heart

Ken Chapman · 2 Corinthians 4:16–5:8

INTRODUCTION

- Do not lose heart is just a fancy way of saying don't give up.
- No matter what you're facing, no matter how long the race, how steep the hill, no matter how difficult the endeavor, don't lose heart.
- Paul is much more than a cheerleader here. Paul is an instructor. Paul gives us some real tools to keep us endeavoring.

1 The Inward Man Is Being Renewed

2 Corinthians 4:16; James 1:2–5; Ephesians 3:14–19

- Therefore, we do not lose heart, even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.
- Despite the difficulty of the outward circumstances, the inward man does not have to track along the same trajectory.
- One thing that you might see in every time that you gave up is that you allowed the inward man to follow the outward man.
- James says there's some joy to be found in trials because the testing of our faith produces patience.
- If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
- He would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might through his spirit in the inner man.

2 What We Are Facing Is a Light Affliction

2 Corinthians 4:17–18; 2 Corinthians 4:8–10; 2 Corinthians 11:23–27

- Another reason that he doesn't give up and that we shouldn't give up is that what we are facing is actually a light affliction.
- We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed. We are perplexed, but not in despair. Persecuted, but not forsaken. Struck down, but not destroyed.
- From the Jews, five times I received forty stripes, minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked.
- He could view it as a light affliction in comparison to what he called the exceeding and great eternal weight of glory.
- Paul says he put all of his afflictions on one side of that scale. And he put an eternity in heaven on the other side of that scale.
- In comparison to the eternal weight of glory, this is a light affliction. It's all relative. And secondly, because this is just momentary. It won't last. But heaven will.

3 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

- For we walk by faith and not by sight.
- We have a body here, it's temporary, it is perishing, but we also have an eternal body that is waiting for us.
- Paul didn't lose heart. Because he had proper vision. He wasn't looking at what was right in front of him.
- I'm walking, living and focus by faith on that which I cannot even see yet. The eternal weight of glory.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **And whatever you do, don't lose heart.**

MY NOTES