We Do Not Lose Heart

Ken Chapman · 2 Corinthians 4:1–16

INTRODUCTION

- And our annual theme for this year is we do not lose heart. That's taken from the book of 2 Corinthians chapter 4.
- He saw the heart as the engine that drives him in his service to God. And he said, despite the challenges, despite the persecutions, despite the difficulties, we do not lose heart.
- Let's make it our goal, period. To not lose heart, to keep on keeping on, to not give up.

1 Paul and We Are Facing Challenges

2 Corinthians 4:8–10

- You say don't give up, don't lose heart to the persons who's struggling in the race.
- When Paul says we do not lose heart, it assumed that he was facing challenges.
- We're hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed. We're perplexed, but not in despair. Persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed.
- But Paul said, regardless of those challenges, we don't lose heart.

2 We Face Sin and Temptation

James 1:14–15

- We face sin and temptation. That hasn't stopped with the first century.
- Peter would say, watch out for Satan. James would say, watch out for yourself.
- Each one is tempted when he's drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it brings birth to sin, and sin when it is full grown brings death.

3 We Have Our Own Form of Persecution

1 Peter 3:16; 1 Peter 4:4

- We better beware, because we are persecuted, just in a different form.
- You have been grieved by various trials. Various trials. Persecution can take different forms.
- The only trials he talks about were being spoken against and being tempted to sin. And guess what? Those are still alive and well in 21st century America.
- He doesn't care whether it's a stone or a guillotine or a laugh and a statement of ridicule.

4 The Burdens of Life and Opposition

2 Corinthians 4:2–4

- He talks about a thorn in the flesh. We don't know what that was, but some kind of physical problem plagued the apostle Paul.

- It might be just the distractions of life. Something that's not inherently sinful, but something that can just occupy your time and your interest and dominate your thoughts.
- Whose minds the God of this world has blinded, who do not believe.
- Paul faced opposition. In spite of this, he says, we do not lose heart.

5 Proper Perspective: It's Not About Me

2 Corinthians 4:5–7

- Paul could say, we do not lose heart, because Paul had put everything in proper perspective.
- For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.
- We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.
- Don't let anybody else's behavior, even if it is wrong, don't let their behavior and their treatment of you keep you out of heaven.

6 An Eternal Perspective

2 Corinthians 4:16; Philippians 3:13

- Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.
- Paul kept it in perspective by keeping it in an eternal perspective.
- We have a building not made with hands, eternal in the heaven. That's my focus, Paul says.
- Forgetting those things which are behind and pressing on.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Let's join hands and join hearts and encourage and challenge one another to not lose heart.**

MY NOTES