

How To Recharge Your Hope

December 27, 2020

Open: What, if any, resolutions or goals did you set for yourself in 2020?

Read & Discuss: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

1. What might Paul mean when he says “we do not lose heart? (v. 16)” Note that in this statement, Paul uses the word “we” rather than the word “you.” What implication does Paul’s choice of pronoun have for our application? What are some common reasons we might lose heart?
2. Paul speaks of the outer self “wasting away” (v. 16a). How would you describe this concept in your own words? **Read Genesis 2:15-17.** How should God’s words in these verses shape the way we understand our lives?
3. What is the “inner self” Paul refers to in verse 16? (*See also Colossians 3:10 and Romans 12:2*) How do you think God brings about this renewal? How have you experienced this renewal in your life? What is our role in receiving this renewal?
4. In verse 17 affliction for Christ’s sake is described as both “light” and “momentary.” For most of us, afflictions do not feel light and momentary. What enables Paul to view afflictions as he does? How should this encourage us to be bold in our efforts to testify about Jesus?
5. Paul indicates that God uses suffering to prepare for us an eternal weight of glory (v. 17). How does this happen? Why does Paul describe the coming glory as having “eternal weight”?
6. What could enable us to better focus our attention on what Paul calls the “unseen”? He says the unseen things are eternal. To what extent are your daily priorities impacted by your future hope?

Apply: What measurable goal would you be willing to set that would help you live with an eternal mindset? How might pursuing this goal benefit your life?

Pray: Pray that our desires and goals would be rooted in our understanding of all that Christ has done for us and the glory that awaits us in the life to come. Ask God for an overflow of His Spirit in us that enables us to walk and grow in faithfulness to such a mindset.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

^[16] So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ^[17] For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ^[18] as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (ESV)