

# Living Out Your Faith in Uncertain Times

## Be Persistent, See Obstacles as Opportunities

### **2 Corinthians 4:8-18**

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16*

### FOUR FAMILIAR ENCOURAGEMENTS

### TO BUILD OUR ENDURANCE AND CONFIDENCE FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

#### **1. Get Back Up When You Get \_\_\_\_\_ Down**

*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9*

*we get knocked down, but we get up again and get going. 2 Corinthians 4:9 (Living Bible)*

*for though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity. Proverbs 24:16*

*Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Acts 8:4*

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33*

#### **2. A Persistent Christian Loves the Lord more than \_\_\_\_\_ Itself**

*We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 2 Corinthians 4:10*

*For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. 2 Corinthians 4:11*

*So then, death is at work in us, BUT life is at work in you. 2 Corinthians 4:12*

**Paul considered himself \_\_\_\_\_ so that others could come to know Christ**

- Acts 19, Paul in the City of Ephesus

*Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater. Acts 19:31*

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **Matthew 16:24**

***Do you love the Lord so much that  
you would be willing to give your \_\_\_\_\_ to advance His cause?***

**"Am I willing to die for my testimony with Jesus Christ?"**

- Worship with the underground church?
- Worship if threatened by terrorists?
- Is my devotion to Christ greater than my devotion to any other single thing in life?

***Do I love the Lord more  
than the \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States of America?***

*"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"*

**Luke 16:10-11**

*Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. **Psalm 63:3***

**3. A Persistent Christian Believes what they \_\_\_\_\_ they Believe**

*It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." **2 Corinthians 4:13***

*With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. **2 Corinthians 4:13-14***

**Paul Believed with all his heart:**

- Jesus was the \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus died and rose from the grave
- Paul saw Jesus on the Road to \_\_\_\_\_
- The same power that raised Jesus would one day raise all believers and reunite them
- Our lives have an eternal \_\_\_\_\_

*That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.* **2 Timothy 1:12**

*All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.* **2 Corinthians 4:15**

**Joy comes from living through \_\_\_\_\_**

1. We believe what the Bible says
2. We live out our beliefs through faith
3. The feeling of joy follows from living in \_\_\_\_\_

*Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.*  
**Job 13:15**

*I can do everything through him who gives me strength.* **Philippians 4:13**

**4. A Persistent Christian Keeps Their Eyes on the \_\_\_\_\_**

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.* **2 Corinthians 4:16-17**

*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.* **2 Corinthians 4:18**

**Paul could keep going because he had his eyes fixed on his eternal goal.**

- Paul saw heaven in a vision—2 Corinthians 12:1-6

**Heaven is “better by \_\_\_\_\_”**

*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far* **Philippians 1:21-23**

***Our goal is to go to heaven when we die,***

***and to take as many \_\_\_\_\_ as we can with us.***

*These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us.* **2 Corinthians 4:17** (The Message)

**William Carey—**

“Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.”

“I can plod. I can persevere in any definite pursuit. To this I owe everything.”

“I’m not afraid of failure; I’m afraid of succeeding at things that don’t matter.”

Key: Knocked, Life, expendable, life, comforts, Say, Messiah, Damascus, purpose, faith, obedience, Goal, far, people