

A Ministry of Dependence

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Main idea: Our greatest strength lies in our dependence on God; as we embrace our weaknesses, His glory is revealed through us.

Key Verses: “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” (2 Corinthians 4:7 ESV)

Key Principles:

- Ministry is a gift of God’s mercy, empowering us to proclaim His truth with integrity and resilience.
- The gospel’s light shines through humble vessels, revealing Christ’s glory despite opposition or unbelief.
- Our weaknesses and trials are vessels for God’s power, showing His strength in our brokenness.
- Suffering is purposeful, refining us to reflect Jesus’ life and death, producing life in others.
- Bold faith, rooted in Christ’s resurrection, compels us to speak and serve despite hardships.
- Eternal hope transforms our perspective, making temporary afflictions light compared to the weight of glory.
- Dependence on God allows His Spirit to work through our fragility, exalting Christ above ourselves.

Discussion:

1. How does relying on God’s mercy help us avoid losing heart when sharing the gospel? Can you share a time when you felt sustained by His compassion?
2. How can we humbly share the gospel’s light in a world that resists it? What challenges have you faced in doing so?
3. How have you seen God’s strength shine through your struggles or limitations?
4. What does it mean to live out Christ’s love through trials? Can you share an example from your life?
5. What fears or obstacles hinder you from speaking about your faith, and how can trust in God’s promises give you courage?
6. How can focusing on the “unseen” eternal realities help you endure hardships? What practical steps can you take to maintain this perspective?

Prayer:

- Pray for a life that grows in dependence on God’s mercy, power, and eternal hope.
- Pray for:
 - Boldness to proclaim Christ’s truth with integrity, trusting in His mercy.
 - God’s power to shine through your weaknesses, sustaining you in trials.
 - An eternal perspective that renews your hope and guides your daily walk.

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2 Corinthians 4:1-18

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| I. | <u>Depend</u> on God's Merciful <u>Call</u>. | 4:1-6 |
| 1. | <u>Proclaim Truth</u> with a Pure <u>Heart</u> . | 4:1-2 |
| 2. | <u>Project Light</u> with a Humble <u>Faith</u> . | 4:3-6 |
| II. | <u>Draw</u> on God's Mighty <u>Power</u>. | 4:7-12 |
| 1. | Endure <u>Trials</u> with His <u>Grace</u> . | 4:7-9 |
| 2. | Live <u>Life</u> with His <u>Love</u> . | 4:10-12 |
| III. | <u>Delight</u> in God's Eternal <u>Hope</u>. | 4:13-18 |
| 1. | <u>Speak</u> with a Bold <u>Faith</u> . | 4:13-14 |
| 2. | <u>Serve</u> with an Eternal <u>Confidence</u> . | 4:16-18 |

NEXT WEEK:
Living in Light of Eternity
2 Corinthians 5:1-10