

*Being Renewed Day by Day*  
2 Cor. 4:13-18

*"The door on which we have been knocking all our lives will open at last... And to be at last summoned inside would be both glory and honor beyond all our merits and also the healing of that old ache... We do not want merely to see beauty, though, God knows, even that is bounty enough. We want something else which can hardly be put into words—to be untied with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become a part of it... We cannot mingle with the splendors we see. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumor it will not always be so, God willing, we shall get in." C.S. Lewis*

- I. The second we came to Christ we began speaking with a language given to us by Christ himself. It is a language that bears witness to the world of what is in our hearts. We are speaking all the time whether we are saying anything or not. What we say and how we act can either show the light of Christ in this very dark world in need of salvation, or we can hide it and bring nothing to it. *"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ"* (2 Cor. 4:6).

2 Cor. 4:13-15

2 Cor. 4:5

**Matt 5:14-15** *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

**Colossians 3:1-3** *1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*

*"Is Christ by his life being made manifest in you? Is there any communication of his character through you today? This is why we have had the revelation, and this is why God has shined into our heart in the light of his knowledge in the glory of the face of Christ. Are you communicating? Whom are we preaching? Redpath*

- II. Faith is the most important, if not the single greatest factor in our ability to endure hardship. It is by faith we believe and are saved, and it is what we are to stand firm in. We are to trust Jesus for everything. There are no guarantees in this life that we will be spared from hardship. In fact, it is what God uses to conform us more and more into the likeness of his Son through the power of the Spirit. We must understand that as he conforms us into his precious image, he is also lovingly renewing our spirit on a daily basis to prepare us for glory.

2 Cor. 4:16-17  
James 1:2-7  
1 Cor. 15:50-55  
Isa. 40:31  
2 Tim. 4:6-8  
2 Cor. 1:8-9

***Psalm 116:10*** I trusted in the LORD when I said, "I am greatly afflicted";

***Romans 8:18-19*** I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

- III. In light of eternity and the glory that will be revealed in us, the hardships we endure here on earth will at some point no longer affect us. Therefore our focus must remain on Jesus and on what eternity has in store for us. If we focus too much on what the hardship is, it could take us where the Lord doesn't want us to go. He wants us to focus on him so that he can keep us from the fear, depression, despair, hopelessness, anger, bitterness, and apathy that living in this fallen world can cause.

2 Cor. 4:18  
Heb. 11:1,6  
Heb. 11:13-16  
Jude 1:3  
Heb. 12:1-3

***Jude 1:21*** Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our LORD Jesus Christ to bring you eternal life.