



## What the Lord is Doing Through Our Afflictions

2 Corinthians 4:7-18  
March 6, 2022

The Big Idea: From the time Adam and Eve were banished from the garden, life has been hard and at times full of unbearable frustration and pain. Christians have a unique opportunity in life to see that they are not **alone** and that God is **working**, even in their pain. Through every affliction you face the Lord is working to bring about something for your ultimate **good** and for His own **glory**.

### 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 (ESV)

**4** <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup> We are **afflicted** in every way, but **not crushed**; **perplexed**, but **not driven to despair**; <sup>9</sup> **persecuted**, but **not forsaken**; **struck down**, but **not destroyed**; <sup>10</sup> always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So **death** is at work in us, but **life** in you.

<sup>13</sup> Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, *"I believed, and so I spoke,"* we also believe, and so we also speak, <sup>14</sup> knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup> For it is all for your sake, so that **as grace extends** to more and more people **it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God**.

<sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though **our outer self is wasting away**, our **inner self is being renewed** day by day. <sup>17</sup> For this **light momentary affliction** is preparing for us **an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison**, <sup>18</sup> 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**.

## God's Purposes in Our Problems

1. He makes His **power** known in our weaknesses. (v. 7)
2. He **sustains** His children through every hard moment, but never allows us to be **destroyed**. (vv. 8-9)
3. He gives us **life** through Jesus, even as we are suffering and dying in this world. (vv. 10-12)
4. In troubled times He teaches us to live by **faith** that is based on the Resurrection of Jesus. (vv. 13-14)
5. He multiplies His **grace** in our lives which increases our **gratitude** and brings glory to God. (v. 15)
6. He gives us a brand new perspective on life and reasons for hope ...
  - o Even as we are facing trouble and our bodies are dying, Christ is inwardly **renewing** us. (v. 16)
  - o Every affliction we face, no matter how tragic will last only a "few moments" and will eventually **fade** in the glory of God's eternal being. (v. 17)
  - o The things we see will one day cease to be. But, we **can't see** what God has made to last forever. (v. 18)

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"Earth is receding. Heaven is approaching.  
This is my crowning day."  
- D.L. Moody's last words

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