

# A Life of Becoming

## 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

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

<sup>7</sup> “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

<sup>8</sup> *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;

<sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

<sup>10</sup> always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

<sup>11</sup> For we who live are constantly being delivered 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 works in us, but life in you.

<sup>13</sup> But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

<sup>14</sup> knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.

<sup>15</sup> For all things *are* for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

<sup>17</sup> For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

<sup>18</sup> while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Probably the greatest obstacle to understanding God’s purpose for brokenness is this: Most believers think of Christianity as something we *do*. We pray. We read the Bible. We go to church. We sing hymns. We tithe. We do and do—and assume that’s the Christian life. It’s not.

Authentic Christianity is about *becoming* rather than *doing*. The life of faith that God designed involves receiving Jesus into our heart and allowing Him to change our habits, mindsets, beliefs, interests, and concerns so we become more and more like Him.

This realization will change our perspective on the heartache we must endure. You see, when we recognize that the Christian life is about Jesus’ persistent work of “re-creation” in us, then the role of brokenness will make more sense. It’s the process the Lord uses to strip us of things that have become—or may one day become—an obstacle to our spiritual growth. He also uses this tool to address issues we may have declared “off limits” to Him, such as unhealthy behaviors or relationships that we rationalize.

God doesn’t want to be Lord of most of your life; He wants to be Lord of *all* of your life! So, He zeroes in on areas of self-will and self-sufficiency to remove everything within us that relies on “self.” He uses brokenness to remove those inclinations so that we can live moment by moment, day by day, in full dependence on Him.

Open your heart, and ask God to reveal any selfish strongholds. Let Him break any unhealthy behavior patterns in your life. He will.