

A Burden or a Bridge

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

2 Corinthians 4:7-18 (NASB)

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

⁸*we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;

⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

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

¹¹For 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.

¹²So death works in us, but life in you.

¹³But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE,” we also believe; therefore, we also speak,

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

¹⁵For 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.

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

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

¹⁸while 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.

What word would you use to describe adversity in your life? To most people, it is a heavy, inescapable burden that wears them down, saps their joy, and hinders them from truly living. Christians, however, have the opportunity to see adversity as a bridge leading to a glorious eternal future.

The determining factor in how we view hardship is our perspective. If we focus only on the negative aspects of our earthly life, we'll be drawn into despair and desperation. But if we look at problems from an eternal standpoint, our thinking and attitudes will be transformed in the following ways:

1. Instead of letting difficulties wear us down, we won't lose heart, because we know we're being renewed from within. As we respond in submission to whatever God allows in our life and trust in His good purposes, our character is shaped into Christlikeness and our hope is restored.

2. The despair of feeling that our adversity is inescapable and never-ending will be replaced with strength to endure. Paul said he was afflicted, perplexed, persecuted, struck down, and constantly threatened with death, yet he called it all “light and momentary” compared to eternity ([2 Corinthians 4:8-11](#); [2 Corinthians 4:17 NIV](#)).

Talimid Shorts 11/09/17

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2 Corinthians 4:8-11 (NASB)

⁸“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;

⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

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

¹¹For 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.”

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“For **momentary, light affliction** is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.”

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

¹⁷“For our **light and momentary troubles** are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”

3. Rather than seeing adversity as a thief of all joy and a hindrance to a good life, we should look beyond the present to what the trial is producing for us in heaven— “**an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison**” ([2 Corinthians 4:17](#)).

Viewing troubles through an eternal lens is an act of faith, which pleases God. It increases our trust in Him, gives us greater passion for our heavenly inheritance, and strengthens us to victoriously cross the bridge of adversity.