

**Small group: Never Lose Your Heart**

Corinthians I 4:16-18

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The world is filled with fear and anxiety because of the coronavirus. It is causing many to feel discouragement and despair. The crooked paths of life bring despair. How does the Apostle Paul overcome the tribulations and momentary afflictions of life? Through our passage Paul shows three ways of how a child of God might live in hope and glorify the Lord.

1. Verse 16, "Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day." What does it mean when Paul says that our outer self is wasting away? How do we know when our outer self is wasting away? What do we feel when our outer self is wasting away? What does it mean that our inner self is being renewed day by day? Do you think you are being renewed day by day?
2. Verse 17, "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison." Why does Paul say our affliction is momentary and light? How does the thought of the future glory that we will receive from God help us overcome affliction? How should a believer understand and confront the afflictions of life?
3. Verse 18, "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." As we live this life, what are things that are seen and things that are eternal and unseen? Why do we place priority on the things that are seen? Share an experience where you placed the things seen and transient priority over the unseen and eternal. What can you do to focus on the eternal things unseen?
4. There are 3 reasons why we should not despair: our inner self is being renewed every day, we should focus on the promise of God's eternal glory and cherish the eternal things unseen. Pray for one another so that no one is in despair, but rather be strengthened as we fix our eyes on Jesus. Pray that this momentary time of affliction might be an opportunity to spiritually soar and grow in Christ.

**Emphasized during the Sunday service**

Faithlessness is when we do not know God  
Disparity is a psychological state that happens  
when we reject the providence of God  
Do not meditate on the problem, meditate on Jesus  
Our lives are not ruled by the turning of the world  
But ruled by the Holy Spirit