

DEFEATING DISCOURAGEMENT – 2 COR. 4:1-18

SERIES: RETHINKING YOUR LIFE

⁹ So Moses told the people of Israel what the LORD had said, but they refused to listen anymore. They had become too discouraged by the brutality of their slavery. **Exodus 6:9 (NLT2)**

⁵ Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again— my Savior and **Psalm 42:5 (NLT2)**

THE APOSTLE PAUL'S 7 WAYS OF DEFEATING DISCOURAGEMENT
FROM 2 CORINTHAINS 4:1-18:

1. _____ HOW MUCH GOD LOVES ME

¹ God in his mercy has given us this work to do, and so we do not become discouraged. **2 Corinthians 4:1 (TEV)**

2. NEVER _____ IT. BE WHO I ____!

² We have renounced disgraceful ways (secret thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness, the methods and arts that men hide through shame); we refuse to deal craftily (to practice trickery and cunning) or to adulterate or handle dishonestly the Word of God, but we state the truth openly (clearly and candidly). And so we commend ourselves in the sight and presence of God to every man's conscience.
2 Corinthians 4:2 (AMP)

3. REMEMBER IT'S _____!

⁵ Our message is not about ourselves. It is about Jesus Christ as the Lord. We are your servants for his sake. **2 Corinthians 4:5 (GW)**

4. _____ IN MY LIMITATION

⁷ However, we possess this precious treasure [the divine Light of the Gospel] in [frail, human] vessels of earth, that the grandeur and exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves. **2 Corinthians 4:7 (AMP)**

5. USE MY _____ TO HELP _____

⁸ We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. ⁹ We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going.
2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (TLB)

¹⁵ These sufferings of ours are for your benefit. And the more of you who are won to Christ, the more there are to thank him for his great kindness, and the more the Lord is glorified. **2 Corinthians 4:15 (TLB)**

6. TAKE _____ FOR _____

¹⁶ That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. **2 Corinthians 4:16 (NLT2)**

7. STAY FOCUSED ON _____

¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!
¹⁸ So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. **2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT2)**

² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. **Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV)**

⁹ And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up.
Galatians 6:9 (TLB)