

¹THEREFORE, HAVING THIS MINISTRY BY THE MERCY OF GOD, WE DO NOT LOSE HEART. ²BUT WE HAVE RENOUNCED DISGRACEFUL, UNDERHANDED WAYS. WE REFUSE TO PRACTICE CUNNING OR TO TAMPER WITH GOD'S WORD, BUT BY THE OPEN STATEMENT OF THE TRUTH WE WOULD COMMEND OURSELVES TO EVERYONE'S CONSCIENCE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD. ³AND EVEN IF OUR GOSPEL IS VEILED, IT IS VEILED TO THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING. ⁴IN THEIR CASE THE GOD OF THIS WORLD HAS BLINDED THE MINDS OF THE UNBELIEVERS, TO KEEP THEM FROM SEEING THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL OF THE GLORY OF CHRIST, WHO IS THE IMAGE OF GOD. ⁵FOR WHAT WE PROCLAIM IS NOT OURSELVES, BUT JESUS CHRIST AS LORD, WITH OURSELVES AS YOUR SERVANTS FOR JESUS' SAKE. ⁶FOR GOD, WHO SAID, "LET LIGHT SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS,"

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HAS SHONE IN OUR HEARTS TO GIVE THE LIGHT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST. ⁷BUT WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY, TO SHOW THAT THE SURPASSING POWER BELONGS TO GOD AND NOT TO US. ⁸WE ARE AFFLICTED IN EVERY WAY, BUT NOT CRUSHED; PERPLEXED, BUT NOT DRIVEN TO DESPAIR; ⁹PERSECUTED, BUT NOT FORSAKEN; STRUCK DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED; ¹⁰ALWAYS CARRYING IN THE BODY THE DEATH OF JESUS, SO THAT THE LIFE OF JESUS MAY ALSO BE MANIFESTED IN OUR BODIES. ¹¹FOR 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. ¹²SO DEATH IS AT WORK IN US, BUT LIFE IN YOU. —2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-12

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AND GOD SAID, "LET THERE BE LIGHT,"
AND THERE WAS LIGHT.
—GENESIS 1:3

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"GOD, WHO FIRST ORDERED 'LIGHT TO SHINE IN DARKNESS'
HAS FLOODED OUR HEARTS WITH HIS LIGHT.

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WE CAN NOW ENLIGHTEN MEN ONLY BECAUSE WE CAN
GIVE THEM KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD, AS WE SEE
IT IN THE FACE OF JESUS CHRIST." —2 COR. 4:6 (J.B. PHILLIPS)

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1. ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S DESIRE
TO COMMUNICATE LIGHT THROUGH YOU
2 CORINTHIANS 4:2-6

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AND HE SAID TO ALL, "IF ANYONE WOULD COME AFTER ME,
LET HIM DENY HIMSELF AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY
AND FOLLOW ME." —LUKE 9:23

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2. AFFIRM GOD'S STRENGTH IN YOUR WEAKNESS
2 CORINTHIANS 4:7

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BUT WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY,
TO SHOW THAT THE SURPASSING POWER BELONGS TO GOD
AND NOT TO US. —2 CORINTHIANS 4:7

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-.011.tiff

"HUMAN WEAKNESS IS NO BARRIER
TO THE PURPOSES OF GOD."
—ALISTAIR BEGG

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3. ADDRESS THE REALITY OF LIFE'S DIFFICULTY
2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-10

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- AFFLICTED, BUT NOT CRUSHED
 - PERPLEXED, BUT NOT DESPAIRING
- "THERE IS NO PIT THAT GOD'S LOVE IS NOT DEEPER STILL."
—CORRIETEN BOOM
- PERSECUTED, BUT NOT FORSAKEN
 - STRUCK DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED

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... ALWAYS CARRYING IN THE BODY THE DEATH OF JESUS,
SO THAT THE LIFE OF JESUS MAY ALSO BE MANIFESTED
IN OUR BODIES. —2 CORINTHIANS 4:10

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"YOU ARE THE SUM OF YOUR SAVIOR, NOT YOUR SUFFERING."
—DANIEL RITCHIE

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4. APPLY THE SECRET TO STAMINA
2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

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... ¹⁶SO WE DO NOT LOSE HEART,
THOUGH OUR OUTER SELF IS WASTING AWAY,
OUR INNER SELF IS BEING RENEWED DAY BY DAY.

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¹⁷FOR THIS LIGHT MOMENTARY AFFLICTION IS PREPARING FOR US AN ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY BEYOND ALL COMPARISON.
¹⁸AS WE LOOK NOT TO THE THINGS THAT ARE SEEN

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BUT TO THE THINGS THAT ARE UNSEEN. FOR THE THINGS THAT ARE SEEN ARE TRANSIENT, BUT THE THINGS THAT ARE UNSEEN ARE ETERNAL. —2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

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...KNOWING THAT HE WHO RAISED THE LORD JESUS WILL RAISE US ALSO WITH JESUS AND BRING US WITH YOU INTO HIS PRESENCE. —2 CORINTHIANS 4:14

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