

Why We Never Give Up

Pt. 1

Nov. 21, 2010

Romans 8:37-39 (NKJV) ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Matthew 19:26 "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. –

2 Corinthians 4:16 Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day"

How does the bible describes us?

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (MSG) ²⁶ Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. ²⁷ Isn't

it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, ²⁸ chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? ²⁹ That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. ³⁰ Everything that we have—right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. ³¹ That's why we have the saying, "If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God."

You will never know the greatness of God until you see him walk into a crisis in your personal life and manifest himself as he delivers you through the power of his Holy Spirit. Think about that.

People who have faced persecution and great trials ----see God in a different way from us.

All of us struggle with the difference between "head knowledge" and "heart knowledge." You never know what you truly believe until the crisis comes.

2 Corinthians 4:1 "Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart"

2 Corinthians 4:16 "Therefore we do not lose heart"

Three reasons why we never give up.

I. We Experience Life in the Midst of Death.

2 Corinthians 4:16 "Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day"

Enjoy every day don't live a cynical or pessimistic life.

When Paul says we are all wasting away, he means it quite literally.

In the average human adult between 50 and 70 *billion* cells die each day.

While we are dying on the outside, that is, in our fleshly bodies, on the inside, in the realm of the spirit, we are being renewed by God every single day.

Philippians 1:20-26 (NKJV) ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ²² But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. ²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. ²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

Strange as it may seem, Paul views his troubles as part of God's plan to renew him spiritually.