

“Divine Renewal”
2 Corinthians 4:13-16

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn In Our Bibles Together:
 - To 2 Corinthians 4 - Where The Apostle Paul:
 - Has Been Describing For Us:
 - What The Christian Life Is Often Really Like!
 - Back In 4:8-9:
 - He Uses 4 Words To Describe:
 - The Difficulties Of The Christian Life!
 - Do These Words Describe:
 - What You Are Going Through?
 - And How You Feel?
 - We Are Often Troubled:
 - By Pressures That Can Seem Overwhelming!
 - We Are Often Perplexed:
 - And Unsure Of What We Should Do Or Where We Should Go!
 - We Are Often Persecuted:
 - And Pursued By Our Spiritual Adversaries - The World, Our Own Flesh, And The Devil Himself!
 - And At Times - We May Even Be:
 - Cast Down!
 - Where We Feel Like We Are In The Jaws Of A Lion!
 - But Is That **All**:
 - That Paul Says About The Christian Life:
 - No! Because - Look At Those Verses:
 - Together:
 - 4:8-9 - “We are troubled on every side, **yet not** distressed; we are perplexed, **but not** in despair; / Persecuted, **but not** forsaken; cast down, **but not** destroyed!”
 - This Means That Christians:
 - Suffer & Struggle Differently:
 - Than The Rest Of The World!
2. But What Is The Difference?
 - We Find The Difference:
 - In The Verses We Will Explore Together This Morning:
 - 4:13-16 - “We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; / Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. / For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. / For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day!”
 - The Difference That Exists In Your Life:
 - If You Are A Christian:
 - Is That - 4:16 - “Though [Your] Outward Man Perish, Yet [Your] Inward Man Is Renewed Day By Day!”
 - When You Experience:
 - Pressure & Perplexity & Persecution & Pain:
 - In Your Christian Life:
 - It Is Because Your “Outward Man” Is Perishing!
 - After All - You Are An “Earthen Vessel” - A Pot Made Out Of Clay!
 - But - When You:
 - Are **Not** Distressed & **Not** In Despair:
 - And When You:
 - Are **Not** Forsaken & **Not** Destroyed:
 - It Is Because Your “Inner Man” Is Being Renewed “Day By Day!”
3. The Difference Is Divine Renewal!
 - This Is Why Paul Could Also Say:
 - In 4:16 - “For Which Cause We Faint Not!”
 - Which Echoes His Statement:

- Back In 4:1 - "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not!"

- It Is God:

- Who Enables You:

- To Persevere In Your Christian Walk:

- No Matter What You Are Going Through!

- And It Is God:

- Who Will Renew You:

- "Day By Day!"

- And Here Are Some Of Things God Uses To Bring About Spiritual Renewal To You And Me!

* First - Divine Renewal Comes Through:

1. Your Trust In The Lord!

- See This In 4:13 - "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak!"

- The Christian Life:

- Is A Life Of Faith & Trust!

- From Start To Finish!

- But - Even Your Faith & Trust In The Lord Is A Gift Of God's Grace!

- Even Hebrews 12:2 - Tells Us That Jesus Is:

- "The Author & Finisher Of Our Faith!"

- And So - The First Way God Brings Renewal Into Your Life:

- Is Through Your Faith!

- Faith Is Your Connection:

- With The Treasure Of The Gospel:

- That God Has Given To You!

- The Treasure Mentioned Back In 4:7 - "But We Have This Treasure In Earthen Vessels!"

- And God Uses Your Faith & Trust In Him:

- To Bring You Hope:

- In The Midst Of The Darkest Times Of Your Life!

- Paul Experienced This First-Hand & Recognized That He Was Not The Only One!

- And So - Paul Quotes From:

- Psalm 116:10 - "I Believed, And Therefore Have I Spoken!"

- The Trust That Paul Had Was The Same Trust That He Found In This Psalm!

- And This Was A Great Comfort To Him!

- Because The Writer Of The Psalm - Possibly King David Himself - Had Gone Through Many Of The Same Trials As Paul Did!

- Isn't This True For Us As Well?

- Romans 15:4 - "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope!"

- And So - Paul Learned From The Faith & Trust:

- That He Found Expressed From This Psalm!

- And His Faith Was Renewed & Refreshed In His Own Heart! Because His Trust Became:

- A Deep Trust!

- Not In Himself - But In The Lord!

- Just Like The Writer Of The Psalm!

- Let's Read Through Psalm 116 - And The Focus Of His Faith & Trust!

- Read Psalm 116!

- The Object Of Trust In This Psalm:

- Is God!

- Who Is "Gracious & Righteous & Merciful!" (116:5)

- When You Find Yourself In:

- Overwhelming Circumstances:

- Your Renewal Will Only Come:

- When You Trust In The Lord!

- And The More You Learn About The Lord, The More You Will Discover That He Is A Trust-Worthy God!

- Then - You Can Say:
 - 116:7 - "Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee!"
- Do You Have This Kind Of Deep & Abiding Trust:
 - In The Lord Today?
 - You Can Tell - Because It Is Also:
- A Declaring Trust!
 - Paul Again States In 4:13 - "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak!"
 - The Trust-Worthiness & Faithfulness:
 - Of God - To Paul - Was Something That:
 - He Could Not Keep To Himself!
 - He Had To Share It & To Speak About It!
 - Just Like In The Psalm That He Quoted:
 - His Words & His Life Was A Testimony:
 - Of God's Deliverance!
 - Do You Have "The Same Spirit Of Faith" In Your Heart?
 - And In Your Life?
 - If You Are Trusting In Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Savior From Sin:
 - Then You Do!
 - And The Deeper Your Trust In The Lord Goes:
 - And The More You Declare The Trust-Worthiness Of The Lord:
 - The More Your "Inward Man" Will Be Renewed!
 - **IE:** Isn't This What Happens During Our Own Testimony Time? Not Just To Fill Up Time - But To Encourage Your Own Heart / To Edify Others / To Exalt The Lord!
 - Be Renewed!
 - We Need To Say With Paul:
 - "We Also Believe, And Therefore Speak!"

* Second - We Can See That Divine Renewal Also Comes Through:

2. ***Your Triumph Through The Lord!***

- 4:14 - "Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you!"
 - What We Find In This Verse Is That:
 - Paul's Faith Gave Him Hope!
 - Because His Faith Was In:
- The Power Of God!
 - And One Of The Greatest Displays Of God's Power:
 - Is The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ:
 - From The Dead!
 - He Writes - "**Knowing** That He Which Raised Up The Lord Jesus!"
 - This Knowledge & This Confidence:
 - About The Lord Jesus - Is What Brought Daily Hope & Daily Renewal Into Paul's Life!
 - But - How Did Paul "Know" About The Resurrection Of Jesus?
 - From His Own Experience!
 - Paul Heard The Voice:
 - Of The Living Savior On The Road To Damascus!
 - Paul Saw The Glory:
 - Of The Risen Lord To The Point That It Blinded Him!
 - But From That Day Forward:
 - He Faith Rested On:
- The Promise Of God:
 - To Raise Himself From The Dead:
 - As Well As Everyone Else:
 - Who Believed In Jesus Christ!
 - "Knowing That He Which Raised Up The Lord Jesus Shall Raise Up Us Also by

- Jesus!”
- Doesn't This Truth & Promise Give You Hope?
 - Even Though Your “Outward Man” Is Perishing:
 - With Every Passing Day!
 - You Get Closer To Closer To The Time Of Your Own Death!
 - Yet - God Has Promised:
 - To Bring You Back To Life Someday!
 - Body / Soul / Spirit!
 - But - How Do You Know This Will Happen?
 - Because Your Life:
 - Is Bound Up In The Life Of Jesus!
 - When You Believe In Him You Are United To Him!
 - John 14:19 - “Because I live, ye shall live also!”
 - But We Can Also Find Encouragement In:
 - The Purpose Of God:
 - For The Resurrection:
 - 4:14 - “And Shall Present Us With You!”
 - There Are Many Who Believed In The Lord & Followed The Lord:
 - Who Are No Longer With Us!
 - But Not Too Long From Now:
 - God Will Bring All Those Who Believe In His Son:
 - Together At Last!
 - Isn't This What Paul Also Describes In:
 - 1 Thessaolonians 4:13-17 - “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. / For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. / For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. / For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: / Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. / Wherefore comfort one another with these words!”
 - Christian - No Matter What You Face Today:
 - You Will Triumph In The End!
 - Because Jesus Christ Rose From The Dead!
 - Why We Can Sing:
 - “Because He Lives, I Can Face Tomorrow!”
 - What Might Come Tomorrow?
 - It Might Be Pressures / Perplexities / Persecutions / Pain!
 - Let Them Come!
 - “Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, / Because He lives, all fear is gone; / Because I know He holds the future, / And life is worth the living, / Just because He lives!”
 - And This Is How:
 - Your “Inward Man Is Renewed Day By Day!”

* Divine Renewal Also Comes Through:

3. ***The Truth About The Lord:***

- And His Grace To You!
 - See This In 4:15 - “For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God!”
 - In The First Part Of This Verse - Paul Expresses:
 - A Very Humbling Thought - “For All Things Are For Your Sakes!”
 - Everything Paul Went Through, But Even More, Everything Jesus Went Through:
 - Was “For Your Sake!”
 - That's Grace!
 - And The “Abundant Grace” Of God:
 - Is What Will Bring Renewal:
 - Into Your Heart & Life!

- Especially When You Consider:

- The Richness Of God's Grace!
 - It Is "Abundant!"
 - Paul Experienced This:
 - And So Do You – Every Single Day!
 - Do You See It? Do You Recognize It? If So - Then Don't Forget:
- The Response To God's Grace:
 - 4:15 - Which Is - "Thanksgiving!"
 - A Heart Of Gratitude!
 - A Renewed Heart Is A Grateful Heart!
 - And "The Thanksgiving Of Many!"
 - Because Thankfulness Increases As You Share It With Others!
 - Doesn't God Deserve:
 - A Great Company & Choir:
 - Of Christians / Churches:
 - Praising & Thanking Him For His Amazing Grace!
 - Leads Us To:
- The Result Of God's Grace:
 - "The Glory Of God!"
 - And When You Live Your Life:
 - With God's Glory In View:
 - Your "Inward Man [Will Be] Renewed Day After Day After Day!"

Conclusion:

1. Whenever We Talk About Spiritual Renewal:
 - We Often Think Of:
 - Isaiah 40:31 - "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint!"
 - Perhaps Paul Had Some Of This In Mind:
 - When He Wrote The Words Of 4:16 - "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day!"
 - But He Knew:
 - That The Only Way For This Divine Renewal:
 - To Take Place In His Life Is:
 - To "Wait Upon The Lord!"
 - Because The Lord Is The Source Of The Renewal You Need!
2. And So - If Your "Heart Is Overwhelmed" Today:
 - Remember What God Uses:
 - To "Renew [Your] Strength!"
 - Your Trust:
 - In Him!
 - Your Triumph:
 - In Jesus Christ!
 - A Risen & Living Savior!
 - And The Truth:
 - About His Grace To You!
3. And Then - Live Your Life:
 - With Gratitude
 - And For The Glory Of The Lord!
 - For He Is Worthy!

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