

TRIUMPH OVER TRAGEDY 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Big Idea: *God is good – so we don't need to fear temporary pain and suffering.*

1. We can overcome the fear of pain and suffering by embracing inner renewal .

¹⁶ “Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

Genesis 3:19 “By the sweat of your face, You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”

Colossians 3:10 “And have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.”

2. We can overcome the fear of pain and suffering by understanding they cannot compare to the glory and honor to come.

¹⁷ “For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.”

2 Corinthians 1:8 “For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life.”

Romans 8:18 “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

Philippians 2:8-9 “Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.”

3. We can overcome the fear of pain and suffering by keeping our eyes on Christ.

¹⁸ “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Colossians 3:1-4 “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

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