

COURAGE SHAPED BY ETERNITY

2 Corinthians 4:16–5:9

We live in a world that is constantly wearing down—bodies weaken, strength fades, and loss touches every life. The pressure of suffering, the weight of uncertainty, and the quiet anxiety of waiting shape the human experience more than we often admit. Yet Scripture tells a deeper story. Though everything visible is temporary, God is doing an unseen work—renewing his people inwardly, dwelling in them by his Spirit, and preparing a glory that will outlast every sorrow and fear. Second Corinthians lifts our eyes beyond what is breaking down to what God is building up. It calls God’s people to live not in retreat or resignation, but with courage, confidence, and faith—walking by what God has promised, not merely by what the world presents.

What We Face

- We face *frailty* 4:16, 18; 5:1
cf. 4:7; Jas 4:14
- We face *adversity* 4:17
cf. 4:8, 9, 11
- We face *anxiety* 5:2, 4

What God Does

- He gives *to* us 5:5
cf. 1:22; 3:3–8, 17–18; 4:7
- He works *in* us 4:16
cf. Jas 1:3
- He prepares *for* us 4:17; 5:1, 3–4

What That Means

- Live with *courage* 4:16, 18; 5:6–8
- Live with *ambition* 5:9