



Title | The Purposes and Navigation
of Our Suffering, Part 1
Series | Suffering Embraced
Text | 2 Corinthians 4:7-18
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | April 27, 2025

Sermon Notes

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For 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. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you. 13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, 14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. 15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. 16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. *ESV*

Big Idea:

2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. . . . *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7. What is the “treasure?” See 2 Corinthians 4:4-6. What are the “jars of clay?” What is the intended contrast between the “treasure” and the “jars of clay?”

Tuesday:

Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-11. In verses 8 and 9 are four couplets, each beginning with our suffering and ending with God’s strength to sustain us through it. How does this relate to the life of Jesus being “manifested” in us in verses 10 and 11? How can our suffering help others?

Wednesday:

Read 2 Corinthians 4:12, 14-15. How can death at work in us bring life to others?

Thursday:

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16 and Romans 5:3-4. How can our suffering benefit us?

Friday:

Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18. What is the “eternal weight of glory” and how is it connected to suffering? How can faithful endurance of suffering benefit us? According to verse 18, what does faithful endurance involve? How can you apply this to your life?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, help me to embrace the truth that when I faithfully endure in my momentary state of suffering, I joyfully invest in my eternal weight of glory. Amen.

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