

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5

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.

⁵ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

—2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5 (ESV)

v 16-17 – “So we do not lose heart...”

A perpetual challenge

“Though our outer self is wasting away...”

The Scriptures differentiate between our inner self and our bodies, as do we

“Light” momentary affliction!

Eternal weight (*vis-à-vis* “light” affliction)

Of glory – God’s glory in which we will live

“beyond all comparison” – **Life** as intended

v 18 – What do we look to?

What do we base our lives and aspirations on?

Not a cop-out—what is seen is not more “real” for that reason

The things that are unseen are eternal – the things that are eternal are unseen

5:1-4 – The “tent” – our bodies; our earthly lives

May be destroyed!

We have a building (building! – not a tent) and “not made with hands!”

Eternal in the heavens

For in this tent we groan

May be harder for the young (or the prosperous) to immediately relate to—*if* there is no persecution or bodily suffering

More and more we “groan,” not just because of bodily affliction and weakness, but of the experience of sin-laden life on earth

Longing to put on our heavenly dwelling

This is the key!

Not to be “found naked,” “unclothed”

But to be further clothed!

That what is mortal may be *swallowed up* by life!

This is not going from life to death—this is going from death to life! From the perishing to the imperishable!

v 5 – This is God’s actual work – not man’s dreaming or speculating

His Spirit is our guarantee – the presence of the Holy Spirit within us—

One might ask, Don’t we have God’s word as a guarantee?

Yes—but without His Spirit, we would not understand or truly believe his word

And the Holy Spirit, who inspired the written word, is more than the written word

He is the word of God written in our hearts, the very life of Christ shared with us and making us to be the children of God

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my just decrees.—Ezekiel 36:26-27

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.—Jeremiah 31:33, also quoted in Hebrews 8:10

And He will always be with us

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever. — John 14:16