






Treasure in Jars of Clay
2 Corinthians 4:7-18




But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.




We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.



It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.



All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.



For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
- 2 Corinthians 4:7-18



The keys to experiencing God's power in our weakness:

1. Treasure your weakness
2. Believe your faith
3. Fix your eyes



1. Treasure your weakness

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.



1. Treasure your weakness

For God... made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.
- 2 Corinthians 4:6



1. Treasure your weakness

... the all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.



1. Treasure your weakness

My weakness + God's power = My power



1. Treasure your weakness

~~My weakness + God's power = My power~~

My weakness + God's power = God's power



1. Treasure your weakness

You have permission to be weak.



1. Treasure your weakness

Wish our weakness away

- or -

Work our weakness out



1. Treasure your weakness

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- 2 Corinthians 12:9-10



1. Treasure your weakness

Hard pressed on every side, but not crushed...



1. Treasure your weakness

Hard pressed on every side, but not crushed...
Perplexed, but not in despair...



1. Treasure your weakness

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation.

- Psalm 42:5



1. Treasure your weakness

Hard pressed on every side, but not crushed...
Perplexed, but not in despair...
Persecuted, but not abandoned...



1. Treasure your weakness

Hard pressed on every side, but not crushed...
Perplexed, but not in despair...
Persecuted, but not abandoned...
Struck down, but not destroyed...



1. Treasure your weakness

“If we live to old age we can feel our bodies (and our beauty) fading, yet if we are growing in God’s grace [through our weakness], our souls, as it were, are becoming stronger and more beautiful. At death this reversal becomes complete. Our bodies disintegrate and we become blindingly glorious. Comfort yourself with these words.”
On Death, Tim Keller



1. Treasure your weakness



2. Believe your faith




2. Believe your faith

It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.



2. Believe your faith

Psalm 116



2. Believe your faith

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4



2. Believe your faith

because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.

- v. 14



2. Believe your faith

Our beliefs and hopes for the future we have in Christ give us a control that dictates how we live our present lives, regardless of our circumstances, weaknesses, etc. The security of our future determines our present.



2. Believe your faith

"Eternity Amnesiacs"




2. Believe your faith

"When you forget eternity, you tend to lose sight of what's important. When you lose sight of what's truly important, you live for what is temporary, and your heart seeks for satisfaction where it cannot be found. Looking for satisfaction where it cannot be found leaves you spiritually empty and potentially hopeless.



2. Believe your faith

Meanwhile, you are dealing with all the difficulties of this fallen world with little hope that things will ever be different. Living as an eternity amnesiac just doesn't work. It leaves you either hoping that now will be the paradise it will never be or hopeless that what is broken will ever be fixed." - Paul David Tripp



2. Believe your faith

The security of our future determines our present.



3. Fix your eyes



3. Fix your eyes

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.



3. Fix your eyes

Renewing Principle (v.17)

Preparing Principle (v.18)



3. Fix your eyes

Renewing Principle (v.17)

...outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day...



3. Fix your eyes

Renewing Principle (v.17)

“Trace the shape of my heart, till it becomes more familiar to your eyes... I’ve been down without you, wrong without your love. In time will I be what you're thinking of?”

- “Eleventh Hour,” *Jars of Clay*



3. Fix your eyes

Preparing Principle (v.18)



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Preparing Principle (v.18)

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