

RESTORED! | TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY

Paul reminds us that God has chosen to place the treasure of the Gospel into ordinary, fragile people. We are "jars of clay"—imperfect, weak, and sometimes broken—yet God uses us to display His power and glory. This lesson reminds us to endure hardship, depend on God's strength in weakness, and keep an eternal perspective as we serve Christ and represent Him to the world. Let's see what God's Word has to say!

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Because God's mercy gave us this ministry, we do not lose heart. We reject deception and distortion, preaching God's truth plainly to everyone's conscience. If our message is hidden, it is only to those blinded by the god of this world, who blocks them from seeing Christ's glorious light. We do not preach about ourselves; we preach Jesus Christ as Lord and serve you for His sake. Just as God commanded light to shine out of darkness, He has flooded our hearts with the light of His glory seen in the face of Christ. 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 daily carry the death of Jesus in our mortal bodies so that His life may be revealed in us. Though we face constant death for His sake, it brings spiritual life to you. Motivated by this same spirit of faith—believing and therefore speaking—we know that God, who raised Jesus, will also raise and present us together with you. All of this is for your benefit so that as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be an overflow of thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. 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 5:14-20

Christ's love compels us because He died for all, meaning all died so that we should no longer live for ourselves, but for Him. Consequently, we no longer view anyone—including Christ—from a worldly perspective. If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old is gone, and the new has come! This is God's work, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us this ministry of reconciliation. Through Christ, God reconciled the world to Himself, overlooking our sins and entrusting us with the message of reconciliation. As Christ's ambassadors, we implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God!

Bible Refs: [Acts 3:19-21](#); [Philippians 1:6](#); [2 Corinthians 4:1-18](#); [Isaiah 6:1](#); [Daniel 3:25](#); [Proverbs 24:16](#); [Acts 16:25-30](#); [1 Peter 5:10](#); [2 Corinthians 5:14-20](#) [[SPANISH](#)]

Questions for Reflection

1. Did anything catch your attention? What words stand out to you? What speaks to you the most?
2. God's power is most visible when we stop pretending to be self-sufficient (2 Cor. 4:6-7). What is the "treasure" Paul refers to in these verses? Why do you think God chooses ordinary people to carry His message? How does recognizing yourself as a "jar of clay" affect your dependence on God? What are some ways God has used your weaknesses to reveal His strength?
3. Circumstances can be difficult, but they don't determine the final outcome (2 Cor. 4:8-9). Which of Paul's four statements resonates most with you? What pressures or challenges are you currently facing? How has God sustained you through difficult seasons in the past? What does it mean to be resilient because of Christ rather than your own strength?
4. Spiritual renewal is not a one-time event; it is a daily work of God's grace (2 Cor. 4:16). What does "inwardly renewed day by day" look like in practical terms? What habits help you stay spiritually healthy and connected to God? How can difficult experiences become growth opportunities? What areas of your life need God's restoration and renewing work today?
5. What is temporary should not distract us from what is eternal (2 Cor. 4:17-18). Why is it often difficult to focus on eternal things rather than temporary challenges? How does the promise of future glory change the way you view present suffering? What are some practical ways to fix your eyes on what is unseen? How can an eternal perspective influence your decisions, priorities, and relationships?
6. What insight did you gain from this lesson? Identify a few takeaways from this lesson.

A Few Takeaways

- God's power in weakness — The gospel shines most clearly through broken vessels. Weakness is not a disqualification; it is the very thing God uses to demonstrate His strength. God places the treasure of the Gospel in ordinary people so that He receives the glory.
- Resilience through Christ — Followers of Jesus might be hard-pressed, but they are not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; struck down but not destroyed; persecuted but God never abandons them.
- Daily renewal — Spiritual renewal is available daily. Though outwardly wasting away, believers can be inwardly renewed every single day through the work of God's Holy Spirit.
- Eternal perspective — Present suffering is redefined when weighed against the "eternal weight of glory." An eternal perspective gives hope and endurance in present trials.
- Ambassadors of reconciliation — As Christ's ambassadors, restored by grace, we are called to carry His light and the message of reconciliation into a dark world.

In Closing: God has not called us to be impressive vessels; He has called us to be faithful ones. The treasure we carry is far greater than the clay container that holds it. The cracks are exactly how the light leaks out. As we trust Christ, are renewed in His strength, and keep our eyes on eternity, God uses our ordinary lives to display His extraordinary power. Remember, it's because the container is so weak that no one can mistake where the power comes from. This week, ask yourself: How can the life of Jesus shine through my weaknesses so that others see His glory?