

## DO NOT LOSE HEART

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 “. . .we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 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.”

So much is happening! Many of the daily events that occur cause worry and concern. Personal safety, uncertain economics, contending with Satan and his temptations and a host of other daily struggles make you aware of your mortality. The struggles you go through in life can make you weary.

There are any number of Bible passages that have the phrase “do not lose heart.” In most of these passages the context is the struggle that exists with sin, Satan, and the cares and trials of this world. Even though you are a believer in Jesus and trust Him to be with you in your daily life, the events of life have a wearing effect. Have you ever said, “I don’t know how much more I can take?”

St. Peter’s words in his second letter provide you with an important message when your struggles weigh heavily upon you, “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9) The Holy Spirit through St. Paul speaks to your moments of weakness in the midst of life’s challenges, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13) Note well that God promises in this verse to provide you with the ability to “endure.”

When in the midst of life’s struggles, the words of the Prophet Isaiah are for you, “they (you) who wait for the LORD shall renew their (your) strength; they (you) shall mount up with wings like eagles; they (you) shall run and not be weary; they (you) shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31) Believing in Jesus Christ you will “not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Prayer: Grant me, O Lord, a faith that will not shrink though pressed by any foe. Grant that by Your grace and my faith in Jesus I successfully endure all of life's challenges. In His holy name. Amen.

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!  
As Thou has died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, Warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my guide; Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll, Bles Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!  
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