

The Treasure

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God, and not of us.

The treasure is the Spirit, the deposit, the power that works in us (Eph. 3:20). The power works no matter what comes against us on the outside. We will experience His overcoming grace and power when we take hold of the treasure.

We are told in this passage that we have this ministry (v. 1). To accomplish it, we have this treasure (v. 7). To access this treasure, there are things we are to do:

1. Renouncing hidden sin (v. 2)

There are things we must renounce. We must take a bold stand and repent of the hidden things of shame, and renounce them. For Paul, that was avoiding craftiness or deceitfully handling God's word.

For us, it may be taking a stand for doing the right thing on our jobs or in our families, when others are doing the wrong thing. Don't compromise. Renounce it. Shun the appearance of evil (I Thess. 5:22).

This is the way to commend ourselves to people's consciences. This helps them to know what they ought to do. Be the example where you are so the people around you can see the truth and be convicted to do the right thing.

2. Keep it about Christ, not yourself (v. 5)

We must avoid pride. We are not living right because we are so wonderful, but because of God's mercy. It's because Christ has saved us. It's because the Holy Spirit is changing us (3:18). This is what we should be preaching. It's Him working in our hearts (v. 6).

3. Keep on believing and speaking (v. 13)

This is what faith is all about. Paul calls it the spirit of faith. He is quoting Psalm 116:10, "I believed, therefore I have spoken; I have been greatly afflicted." The psalmist was going through trouble but was still able to declare God's deliverance: "For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living." (v. 8-9)

4. Stay thankful (v. 15)

Thank Him for His grace. Thank Him for delivering you, as the Psalmist declared. Thank Him for saving you. Let this thanksgiving abound so He is glorified. If you stay thankful, you will not lose heart (v. 1,16).

The Holy Spirit is working. Praise Him for it. You're getting better every day. The inner man is being renewed, no matter what is going on outside. If you will keep this perspective and follow these things, you will fulfill your ministry. You will finish your mission. You will complete your assignment on the earth. Your reward will be great in heaven (v. 17). So keep your eyes on the unseen (v. 18).