**Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church - BIBLE STUDY - 9/10**

**KNOW, BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE STUDIES**

**A NEW DAWN, A NEW DAY & A NEW LIFE IN HIS PRESENCE**

**2nd Corinthians 4:7-10 (sermonic verses)**

In earlier chapters, Paul has been reflecting on his ministry perspective of Jesus. He developed a real sincerity and reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit. In this passage, Paul continues to lay out his own personal philosophy of ministry in the face of troubles and difficulties, unbelief and struggle. People had a problem with Paul because he spoke with an **inward/outward authority**.

**QUESTION: DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE ANY AUTHORITY INWARDLY BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO UNLEASH ANYTHING TO GOD?**

2 Corinthians Chapter 4 teaches that **Christians, though outwardly weak and afflicted** ("jars of clay"), **carry the powerful, glorious light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ within** them, which enables them **to persevere without losing heart**. This **inner renewal**, **powered by God**, allows believers to face difficulties like persecution with hope, focusing on the eternal glory to come rather than temporary suffering, and to preach Christ's truth with transparency and integrity.

**God’s presence is the key to strength, transformation, and overcoming challenges in life.**

By cultivating this **intentional, daily awareness of God's presence** through worship, prayer, and scripture, individuals can experience different degree of power…

-to fulfill their purpose,

-to see burdens removed, and

-finding inner peace

THOUGHTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In the previous chapter, Paul has been reflecting on his ministry fragrance of Christ, sincerity, and a reliance on the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:15 explains that a **spiritual veil** covers the hearts of people who read the Old Testament (Moses' writings) **without having accepted Christ**.

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This veil symbolizes a spiritual blindness or hardened heart preventing the unleashing of anything by faith. 16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.

-Jesus becomes the torn vail. (Spelling KJV correct)

**17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.**

**-THE VEIL HAS BEEN TORN TO UNLEASH BY FAITH…HALLELUJAH!**

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In this passage, Paul continues to lay out his own personal philosophy of ministry in the face of troubles and difficulties, unbelief and struggle. People had a problem with Paul because he spoke with an **inward/outward** authority.

**2 Corinthians 4:1 KJV**

Therefore **seeing we have this ministry**, as we have received mercy, **we faint not**;

**2 Corinthians 4:1 MSG**

**Since** **God has so generously let us in on what he is doing**, we're not about to throw up our hands and walk off the job just because we run into occasional hard times.

**UNLEASHING IN CONFIDENCE IDENTIFIES THESE SERMONIC POINTS:**

**1. Pressure will not defeat us.**

**“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed” (v. 8a).**

-pressed is from a word meaning “to constrict or compress, to be confined, hemmed in, restricted to a narrow place.

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**2. Confusion will not discourage us.**

**We are “perplexed, but not in despair” (v. 8b).**

-Perplexed is from a Greek word meaning “at a loss, to be without resources, to be in straits,

to not know which way to turn.”

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**3.  Opposition will not deter us.**

**We are “persecuted, but not abandoned” (v. 9a).**

Persecuted means **facing suffering, harm, or oppression (persecution) because of one's beliefs or actions, but remaining secure in God's constant presence and care (not abandoned)**.

**PERSECUTION & ABANDONMENT OFTEN STEMS FROM OUR HEART AND MIND.**

**PROMISES KEEP US CONNECTED IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE AND SEASON.**

1. **God is with you in times of fear.**
	* **Bible Verse:** "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).
2. **God provides perfect peace.**
	* **Bible Verse:** "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you" (Isaiah 26:3).
3. **God gives strength for the weary.**
	* **Bible Verse:** "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).
4. **God will meet all your needs.**
	* **Bible Verse:** "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).
5. **God offers rest for the heavy-laden.**
	* **Bible Verse:** "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).
6. **God forgives confessed sins.**
	* **Bible Verse:** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
7. **God promises eternal life.**
	* **Bible Verse:** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16)

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**4. Hard hits will not destroy us.**

**We are “struck down, but not destroyed” (v. 9b).**

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