

RENEWAL TIME

II Corinthians 4:16-18

**The new year provides us with an opportunity
for a fresh start in our walk with God.**

God call us to...

I. RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT (16)

A. WE RESOLVE ...

- To not lose heart
- 1. To maintain momentum
- 2. To forego discouragement
- 3. To be actively engaged

B. WE REALIZE ...

- 1. Decay is natural
- 2. Renewal is spiritual
 - a. The inner man is the seat of the soul and spirit
 - b. We can have prosperous souls - See III John 2
 - c. We can be strengthened with might in the inner man - Eph. 3:16

C. WE REMEMBER ...

- 1. There is no renewal where there is no regeneration
- 2. When we neglect spiritual renewal we will lack ambition, passion and power
- 3. That we need daily renewal, not weekly or occasional renewing
- 4. We are called to renewal and not reruns!

SUMMARY: We need a daily commitment to godly development.
- Those who lack this backslide!

God calls us to ...

II. RENEW OUR PERSPECTIVE ON SUFFERING (17)

A. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD TRIALS

- 1. The Reality of the trial
 - a. Their significance: Light affliction
 - b. Their endurance: Momentary
- 2. Our Response to the trial
 - a. A right view of suffering is needed
 - This is nothing in light of eternity
 - b. Paul was being crushed (see 4:8-12) but was focused on the outcome and not the immediate.

B. OUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GOD

1. God's Production: He is working in us
 - a. Producing or accomplishing through a prolonged process - See Rom. 5:3-5
 - b. Example: Joseph's process of coming to power took over 20 years!
2. God's Priority: God is working in us for our benefit

C. OUR ACCESS TO HONOR

1. The Glory: The pressure produces a prize
2. The Greatness: An eternal weight of glory
3. The Grandeur: Far beyond all comparison

D. SUMMARY: We need a renewed perspective on the virtues and value of suffering.

God calls us to ...

III. RENEW OUR FOCUS ON THE ETERNAL (18)

A. OUR ATTENTION: Looking

1. This is to thoroughly look or fix attention upon something.
2. This action involves concentration

B. OUR ALTERNATIVES

1. Focus on temporal, fleeting things that can be seen
 - Note examples in Luke 12:16-21 and II Kings 6;15-18
2. Focus on eternal, imperishable things that are invisible
 - a. The saints of God - II Cor. 3:2-3
 - b. The Spirit of God - II Cor. 3:17-18
 - c. The promises of God - II Cor. 7:1
 - d. Communion with God - James 5:16b
 - e. A home with God - John 14:1-3

C. OUR ACTIONS

1. We tend to go in the direction we look - Consider Lot in Gen. 13-19
2. We are easily distracted by the obvious - Note the 10 spies in Num. 12:27-28, 31
3. Where we look determines how we feel about our circumstances
 - See Abraham in Gen. 22:8
4. The eyes of faith should be focused on the unseen - Heb. 11:1

D. SUMMARY: We need to reenlist for duty as watchmen of the invisible and eternal.
 - This will seem silly to many!

Next page please

CONCLUSION:

Consider Moses' model behavior - Heb. 11:24-27

1. Committed to godly development (24)
2. Perceptive about suffering (25-26)
3. Focused on the unseen (27)

Consider your Christian walk.

- Are there things you need to renew?

1. Your fervor: A passion for spirituality
2. Your thinking: A perspective about God's will and ways
3. Your focus: A preoccupation with God and the eternal

May God help us to have a fresh and faithful walk with Him in 2013.