

Intro: Conversation with a friend who had someone facing a very serious medical issue that has an uncertain outcome
They were struggling with the “what if” question. You know it right? The one where your mind spins...awful
Afraid for someone they love deeply, and feel helpless...because the Dr.s can’t give any assurances
So, I Told them something that a friend of mine told me one time.

“Either we believe the Gospel we preach or we don’t. If we believe it...then we have to LIVE like we believe it!”

That is what Paul writes to the Corinthians in the passage we are looking at today.

HE...and THEY...Are facing an uncertain future. They aren’t sure what is coming their way...
Things have been very difficult for them to this point...and now they aren’t sure what comes next.

So he writes to tell them where to find: **Strength To Face An Uncertain Future**
2 Cor 5:1-10 Pg 818

What Paul says to them...and to you and I is this. We may not be certain what the future holds...but we KNOW who holds the future! And because we KNOW that, there are some things God has told us...that we can hold onto for certain.

1. We Know That This Body...Is Not Us!

5:1

a. Rick Amato used to say it this way.

“We are not physical beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a physical experience!”

We are often confused. THIS...IS NOT US! This body is what we have...but it is not who we are!

We are a spiritual being with a physical body...and when our time in this physical body is done...WE CONTINUE ON!

Because that is so...because we KNOW it: Lit = *to be sure, certain, settled in our mind* (Affects EVERYTHING)

When you have a relationship with Jesus, that informs everything in your life, and this is a part of that understanding.

Because we KNOW that this body...is not us...while we care for it, provide for it, steward it...it is a temporary place!

b. Paul calls this body an “earthly tent!” (uses the words that were used to describe the tabernacle in wilderness)

Destroyed: Lit = *to be taken down, to loosen down, to strike the tent!*

He say, listen...in the same way that “tent” was temporary...and it was put up and taken down.

So OUR tent...our body...is put up and taken down. It is temporary! Never intended to last!

We are here in this body for a season...and that season is short...and will pass...and we need to understand and prepare that

- 1Peter 1:23-25 *“All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field...”*
- Psm 103:15 *“As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field...”*

KNOW #1: This BODY...is Temporary...it is NOT us!

2. We Know That God Has Something Better For Us!

5:1

This is the flip side of what he said at first. This is not us...and God has something better

- We have a building from God We are going to get a glorified body! (like what Jesus had)
After resurrection: Similar: Real, Physical, but W/O limitations
Jn 20:26-27 *Could be touched, Seen, Eat But different in some ways*
- That body is eternal...not temporary It is going to last forever (This one fades like the grass...that lasts!)
- It is created by the hand of God...not by man! It is the handiwork of God...so it MUST be good! Mk 14:58
(Made w/o hands Jesus said of creating his new body)

Jesus told us that, right? Jn 14:1 *In my Fathers house are many ‘abiding places!’ I go to prepare one for you!*

Listen, when you get your glorified body...it is going to be AMAZING! Jesus been working on it 2000 years!

KNOW #2: The Body to come...is going to be much better than the one we have now...Eternal...Made by Jesus for you

3. We Know That The Time Here Is Difficult...But It Will Pass!

5:2

a. Look at all the things that Paul says, the words he uses, the struggle he describes

- We groan: Lit = *to moan, sigh, to cry to; to murmur or pray under your breath!*
- Burdened; Lit = *to be weighted down*
- Longing: Lit = *to crave something strongly, to intensely crave or to lust after*

Paul says, listen...We KNOW that this time between where we are...and where we are going to be...is tough!

Here is where one of the major misunderstandings about Christianity comes into play

a. **We believe:** God is going to remove the difficulty, or remove us from the difficulties of life!

b. **What He promises:** Is that HE will give us the strength to endure, to prevail, to overcome and walk THROUGH

That is a significant difference. And because we don’t understand it, when uncertainty comes, we don’t pray correctly!

We pray for the wrong things...and as a result...we don’t get what we pray for...and we think God has let us down!

He hasn’t let us down...we just believed the wrong thing! We thought that guy on TV was right...(50 dollar faith promise)

James 4:2: *We don’t get what we ask for, because we ask with the wrong motives.*

God...take it away...make IT better...Instead of God, take it away, or walk me through it...either way...MAKE ME BETTER!

God is more interested in your CHARACTER than your COMFORT. He is using this life to prepare you for the next!

Now, look at the Promise Paul makes: This is one of the certainties that get us through time of uncertainty
b. What is mortal (temporary, not lasting, liable to die) will be gulped down by life!

What we have here...as fading and temporary as it is...is going to be swallowed up by eternal life!

And...here is the kicker... We were MADE FOR THAT PURPOSE! VS 5: God made us for that very purpose!

We were MADE FOR IMMORTALITY...we were MADE FOR THAT LIFE:

The illusion: IS NOT WHAT IS COMING: THE ILLUSION IS WHAT IS HERE!

We have bought into the lie that what matters is THIS LIFE! And it does...but only as it relates to using it to prepare for other

KNOW #3: This life is tough...But God can get us through it...it WILL PASS!

4. The Way Through Uncertainty is By Faith, Not By Sight.

5:5-9

There are two opposing ways of living this life we all find ourselves in

1. I am going to live on what I see, what I observe, what I know, what I choose to think and believe

Sight: What is visible, provable and observable in this physical

2. I am going to live on what God says. (I can't see it, touch it, taste it or confirm it. I simply believe it.

Faith: What God says is real!

Paul here contrasts the two. And in doing so he reminds us that FAITH has always been the pattern of God with His people.

Heb 11:1ff "Now, Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen."

Substance: Lit = *the support under something: (Used many different ways in everyday language)*

Ex: Foundation under building; binding force under a contract, trust under promise

Used regularly of the Title Deed to property!

Not the property itself...but it represents your ownership of that property!

Illus: Tom Cruise Movie: Jerry McGuire: "My word is my bond...Stronger than oak!"

Paul says, we have a dwelling place waiting for me in heaven...and FAITH is the title deed to it!

Evidence: Lit = *Proof or evidence: THIS belongs to ME, and here is the proof!*

Faith is no more...and no less than simply taking God at His word, and living based on that...

Needing no more than His promise to stake everything in your life on!

That is what the entire chapter 11 of Hebrews is about...One after the other men and women of faith...How God honored

KNOW #4: I will ONLY successfully navigate this life by faith!

5. We Know It Will Be Worth It All When We See Jesus.

5:10

Paul is talking about uncertainty, but he finishes by saying: There Is One Certainty For Everyone. Judgment Seat of Christ

You see, I have finally found something that Granny Hedgepeth was wrong about!

She used to say to me, Denny "There are two things in life that are certain...Death and Taxes!"

Not true: There are a LOT of things you don't HAVE TO DO!

- You don't HAVE to Pay your taxes...
- You don't HAVE to die! If Jesus comes back...you will meet Him in the air!
- You don't HAVE to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. You can choose to reject Him and not believe
- You don't HAVE to live by faith: You can live a miserable life as a Christian, act like don't know Him, not believe!
- You don't HAVE to walk with Him if you know Him, or Serve Him, or Spend time with Him

There are a LOT of things you don't HAVE to do.

But: This IS certain: There is ONE thing that we MUST ALL DO!

We MUST all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ!

And at that time we will all receive what is due us: Good or Bad!

And here is the reality: If you Do Accept Him, and You Do live by faith, and you do walk with him, serve him, spend time

It will be worth it all...When you stand before Him! "Each one will receive what is due him, whether good or bad!"

CONCL:

So...How do you face the uncertainties of life?

- *This body is NOT you*
- *God has something better*
- *Its tough...it will pass*
- *Only Get through it by FAITH...Not by Sight*
- *IT will be worth it all when you stand before Him*

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

HOW ARE YOU WALKING?

WALKING WITH HIM?

READY TO STAND BEFORE HIM?