

I Am Being Renewed Each Day

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The following is an excerpt from a study book for individuals and/or small groups- (soon to be published) :
“Who Am I?” Following the Path To My True Identity

By Sharon Winkler

Theme Verse: 2 Corinthians 4:16 NIV

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.



Have you ever felt like you just want to give up and quit? “It’s just too hard!” “I’m not making any progress!” “I seem to take one step forward and two steps back!” These are just a few of the comments I’ve heard some followers of Christ give.

All of us at some time or other face problems that may cause us to feel that way. When the Apostle Paul faced persecution, rather than giving up, he concentrated on experiencing the inner strength he received from the Holy Spirit.

Look at the closing remarks he wrote to the Ephesian church (Ephesians 3:16). What did he say to them?

We must keep in mind during these times a much bigger picture: the eternal rewards of our perseverance. Look at Galatians 6:9. What is the encouragement we find here to us?

We see such an emphasis on the outward man in our society today: products to make you look younger, surgeries to try and overcome the aging process and on and on. In looking at God’s Word, we are not to get “caught up” in the world’s view but rather where should we be putting our emphasis?

It is the eternal that we should keep our focus on (and hopefully that is how you answered that preceding question. We are to keep on building and strengthening the inner man.

The important phrase in our theme Scripture (2 Corinthians 4:16) is “our inner person is being renewed day by day.” Does that just happen without any action on our part? I don’t think so!

I am reminded of a little chorus I sang as a child: “Read your Bible, pray every day and you’ll grow, grow, grow.” We will never grow if we do not know what God expects of us or even get to know Who it is we are serving. As you look at the following chart, there are a few Scripture references for you to refer to. As you look at these, write down the reason we are to be in the Word.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE	MY REASON TO BE IN THE WORD
Psalm 119:105	
Proverbs 6:23	
Psalm 19:8	
Psalm 119:130	
Romans 10:17	
2 Timothy 3:15-17	

This list could continue and you may (at some time) like to develop it further.

In Romans 12:2 we can read how we are renewed. What did the Apostle Paul say?

Another means God will use in this renewing, transforming process is suffering. Yes, I know that is a word none of us want to hear. Our flesh just doesn’t want to suffer. Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:23-29 told us all the things he had endured during his ministry and in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, he states that these sufferings (in

comparison to eternity ..4:14) were momentary troubles (the word “troubles” here in the Greek means “pressures, hardships”). He also states that they were “light” (“light” means in weight, easy to bear). How in the world could he say that when we see all that he went through? Why would he make such a statement?

Because his focus and mind were on the “bigger picture” which was eternal and because of this, he could see and understand how God’s grace was renewing him day by day. And as he was being renewed, his inner man was becoming stronger and stronger (he was taking in those “spiritual vitamins”). It was this attitude of mind that sustained him in the midst of his “temporary sufferings.”

Because of all this, whatever sufferings you may endure in this life, what does Paul say to us in 2 Corinthians 4:18?

As we close this “identity marker”[•], look at Isaiah 40:31 and write this verse out. It might also be advantageous to put it in your “memory bank” to draw on when the way may be a little tough going.

(• this term is referred to for each title in the book: Who I Am in Christ.)

DISCUSSION POINTS FOR THOSE WALKING WITH ME ON THIS JOURNEY

1. Share a testimony (from your own experience) regarding how you have seen your “spiritual man” being renewed day by day.
2. Has there been anyone whose life has inspired/encouraged you as a result of what they have experienced when it comes to momentary sufferings?
3. When it comes to our difficulties/sufferings in life, what do you find that may make it difficult to focus on God or the bigger picture? What gets in the way?