

# The Paradox and Purpose of Christian Suffering

Do not lose heart

II Corinthians 4:7-18

II Corinthians 4:16

So *we do not lose heart*. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

**Do Not Lose Heart**

*The Paradox of Christian Suffering – v.8-9*

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1) *He Makes Your Suffering Count NOW – v. 7, 10-15*

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- 1) He Makes Your Suffering Count NOW – v. 7, 10-15*
- 2) He Makes Your Suffering Count in Glory – v.17-18*

# *The Paradox of Christian Suffering*

*Paradox – a statement that seems absurd but in reality expresses a possible truth.*



## II Corinthians 4

*(8) We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; (9) persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;*

## II Corinthians 1

*(8) For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we **despaired of life itself.***

## II Corinthians 4

*(8) We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; (9) persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;*

# Momentary Experience

*v.8 afflicted*

*v.8 perplexed*

*v.9 persecuted*

*v.9 stuck down*

## Momentary Experience

*v.8 afflicted*

*v.8 perplexed*

*v.9 persecuted*

*v.9 stuck down*

## Permanent Promise

*not crushed*

*not driven to despair*

*not forsaken*

*not destroyed*

## II Corinthians 5

*(1) For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is **destroyed**, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

## II Corinthians 4

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- 2) *He Makes Your Suffering Count in Glory – v.17-18*

1) *He Makes Your Suffering Count NOW – v. 7-15*

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a) *It shows off the surpassing power of God – v.7*

## II Corinthians 4

*(7) But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us*

1) *He Makes Your Suffering Count NOW – v. 7-15*

a) *It shows off the surpassing power of God – v.7*

b) *It Makes Known the Life of Jesus to Others –  
v10-12*

## II Corinthians 4

*(10) always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the **life** of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. (11) For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the **life** of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. (12) So death is at work in us, but **life** in you.*

## II Corinthians 4

*(10) always carrying in the body the death of Jesus,*

*1) He Makes Your Suffering Count NOW – v. 7-15*

*a) It shows off the surpassing power of God – v.7*

*b) It Makes Known the Life of Jesus to Others –  
v10-12*

*c) It Brings Glory to God NOW – v.15*



## II Corinthians 4

*(15) For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.*

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*more suffering → more life → more grace → more thanksgiving → more glory to God*

1) *He Makes Your Suffering Count NOW – v. 7-15*

2) *He Makes Your Suffering Count in Glory – v.17-18*

## II Corinthians 4

*(17) For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,*

## II Corinthians 4

*(17) “For this momentary and light affliction of ours is producing for us, to an utterly incomparable degree, an eternal load of glory.”*

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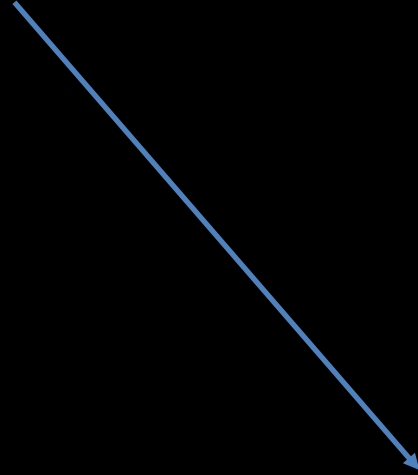
# Opposing Propositions

*Light Momentary Affliction*

*Eternal Weight of Glory*

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*Light Momentary Affliction*



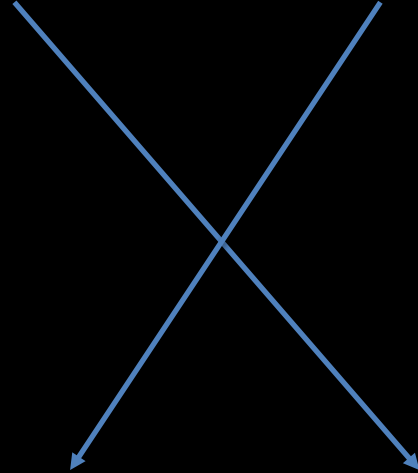
*Eternal Weight of Glory*



# Opposing Propositions

*Light Momentary Affliction*

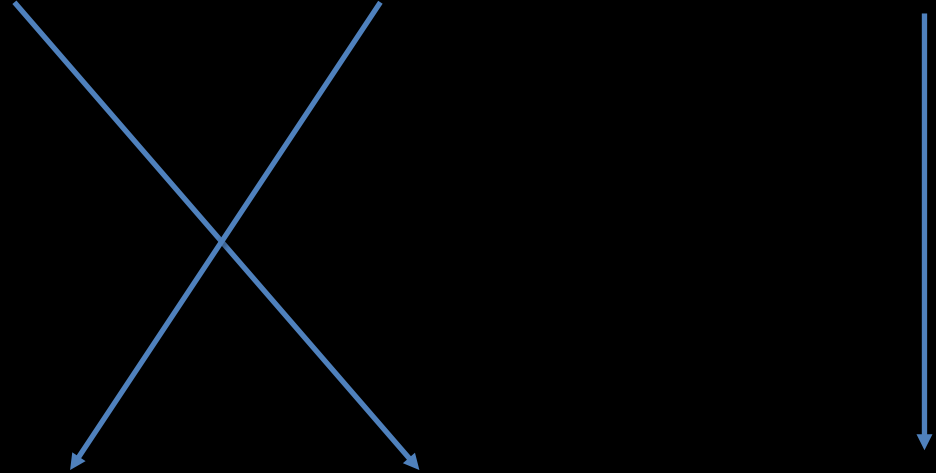
*Eternal Weight of Glory*



# Opposing Propositions

*Light Momentary Affliction*

*Eternal Weight of Glory*



## II Corinthians 4

*(18) as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*