

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 Corinthians 4:1 (NIV)

Don't Quit

Alright, I won't. **You won't what?** I won't quit. **You won't quit what?** I won't quit serving you. I won't quit doing the ministry you have given to me. **Have you been tempted to quit?** You know the answer to that question. **Yes, I know the answer to that question. Remember, I know your thoughts even before you think them.** Then why ask me? **I want to talk to you about your temptation to quit. Why haven't you quit? What has kept you going?** Knowing that you have given me this ministry has kept me going. Knowing that you will help me has kept me going. Knowing that you have gifted me to do this work has kept me going. Wanting to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name has kept me going. Wanting to do what is good and right and pleasing to you has kept me going. **Those are all very good reasons to keep on serving me. Those are all very good reasons to keep on doing the work I have given you to do.** That is what I thought. That is what I think.

But I don't want you to be weary. I don't want you to be worn out. I don't want you to be burned out and on the verge of quitting. That is not my desire and plan for you. What do you want from me? What do you expect from me? What is your plan for me? **Those are all very good questions. Let me ask you some more questions.** Go ahead, I'm listening. **How have I helped you? How have I strengthened you? How have I refreshed and revived and strengthened you? What has helped and hindered you from continuing to move forward with me?** Letting my life get out of balance has hindered me from moving forward with you and continuing your work. Failing to come to rest in your presence has left me weary and worn out. **So, what will you do differently?** I will make sure that I am take care of my body. **How so?** I will get enough sleep. I will get enough exercise. I will eat a healthier diet. **That is a good start, what else?** I will allow you to take care of my soul. I will come to rest in your presence. I will take time just to be with you. I will listen attentively to you. I will meet with you in prayer and worship. I will offer to you all my praise and thanksgiving. **That will be even better. Take care of your body and let me take care of your soul. Then you will have all that you need to keep on moving forward with me, to do the work I have given you. Does this sound like a good plan?** This is a great plan. **Yes, it is.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, thank you for preparing me to join you in what you are doing. Thank you for giving me a ministry to do for you. Strengthen and empower me to keep on serving you. Help me to never lose heart, quit, or give up doing the work you have prepared for me. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *This Ministry*

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

NIV 2 Corinthians 4:1

Becoming Like Christ *This Ministry*

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.

ESV 2 Corinthians 4:1

Becoming Like Christ *This New Way*

Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up.

NLT 2 Corinthians 4:1

Becoming Like Christ *This Ministry*

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.

NKJV 2 Corinthians 4:1

Becoming Like Christ *This Ministry*

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.

NRSV 2 Corinthians 4:1

Becoming Like Christ *Let Us In On What He Is Doing*

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.

MSG 2 Corinthians 4:1

Becoming Like Christ *This Ministry*

THEREFORE, SINCE we do hold and engage in this ministry by the mercy of God [granting us favor, benefits, opportunities, and especially salvation], we do not get discouraged (spiritless and despondent with fear) or become faint with weariness and exhaustion.

AMP 2 Corinthians 4:1

Becoming Like Christ *This Wonderful Work*

It is God himself, in his mercy, who has given us this wonderful work [of telling his Good News to others], and so we never give up.

TLB 2 Corinthians 4:1

Becoming Like Christ *This Ministry*

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,

NASB 2 Corinthians 4:1

Becoming Like Christ *This Work*

God, with his mercy, gave us this work to do, so we don't give up.

NCV 2 Corinthians 4:1

This Ministry

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – 2 Corinthians 4:1

In Context: Read 2 Corinthians 4

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: *(What is God speaking to your heart?)*

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 Corinthians 4:1 (NIV)

Considering The Words: *(What words speak to your heart?)*

Therefore, | since through | God's mercy | we have | this ministry, | we do not | lose heart. 2 Corinthians 4:1 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, thank you for preparing me to join you in what you are doing. Thank you for giving me a ministry to do for you. Strengthen and empower me to keep on serving you. Help me to never lose heart, quit, or give up doing the work you have prepared for me. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why can you be absolutely certain that the Lord will give you a ministry to do for Him?

What kind of process helped you to understand the ministry the Lord has given you to do for Him?

How has the Lord uniquely prepared you to do the ministry He has given to you?

How surprised are you that the Lord has given you a specific ministry to do for Him?

When have you almost lost heart and quit the ministry the Lord has given you to do for Him?

What has hindered or helped you to keep on doing the ministry the Lord has given to you?

How has the Lord strengthened and empowered to do the ministry He has given to you?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Allow the Lord to empower and strengthen you to do the ministry He has given to you.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will help you to keep on doing the ministry He has given to you.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group what ministry the Lord has given you to do for Him.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

This Ministry

2 Corinthians 4

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you not lose heart so you can do the ministry the Lord has given to you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will not lose heart and stop doing the ministry you have given to me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will you help me to not lose heart and quit the ministry you have given to me?
