

So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (MSG)

Finish Strong

I know that my body is wasting away. Nothing works quite as well as it once did. I have aches and pains like never before. The snap, crackle, and pop of my body reveals something about my age. Who is that old guy looking back at me in the mirror? That could not be me. Well, guess what? It is me. With this realization I could become discouraged. I could give up. That won't happen. **Why is that? Why will you not become discouraged? Why will you not give up and quit?** I know what is true. **What's that? What is true?** As my body wastes away and basically falls apart on the outside, you are renewing me on the inside. Day by day, your Holy Spirit is doing a work inside me. You are renewing my spirit. You are making me fresh and alive in you. You are filling my life with joy and peace and hope. You are continually changing my perspective. **How so?** I am no longer captivated by the world and all I see. I know all that is seen today will be gone tomorrow. This life is like a mirage on a sun scorched road just ahead. It's only here for moment. What will last forever is what I cannot see. **What can't you see?** I can't yet see the life I will have forever in heaven with you. I can't see the celebration awaiting my arrival in heaven. I can't see the new and glorious body you have prepared for me. I can't imagine that my life in heaven, with you, will never end. That thought, makes my head spin. I can't comprehend all your goodness. The best of this life will not compare with what you have waiting for me in heaven. **You are correct. You are right to be encouraged. Keep your heart and mind and eyes focused on me. Keep on living your life fully for me. Run the race of faith with me. Finish strong. Sprint to the end. Cross the finish line with a flourish. Everything that has been difficult or trying or challenging for you in this life will be forgotten in an instant, once you are with me.** Heavenly Father, thank you for kindness and mercy and love. I will run the race of faith. I will finish strong. I will sprint to the end until I am with you. **That will be very good.**

Heavenly Father, even though my outward body is falling apart I will not become discouraged and give up. I know that day by day you are renewing me on the inside. Keep doing your good work in me. Help me to run fast and finish strong in my life of faith in you. Amen

The Spirit Empowered Life *Renewed Day By Day*

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

NIV 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Renewed Every Day*

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

NLT 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Renewed Day By Day*

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 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.

ESV 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Renewed Day After Day*

Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day. For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!]. Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting.

AMP 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Renewed Day By Day*

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

NASB 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Renewed Day By Day*

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 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.

ESV 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Renewed Day By Day*

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

NKJV 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Making Us New*

So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

MSG 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Growing Every Day*

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our inner strength in the Lord is growing every day. These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever! So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.

TLB 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The Spirit Empowered Life *Made New Every Day*

So we do not give up. Our physical body is becoming older and weaker, but our spirit inside us is made new every day. We have small troubles for a while now, but they are helping us gain an eternal glory that is much greater than the troubles. We set our eyes not on what we see but on what we cannot see. What we see will last only a short time, but what we cannot see will last forever.

NCV 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Making Us New

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Spirit Empowered Life – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 **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?)*

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

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Praying The Scripture: *(What prayer from your heart will you write?)*

Heavenly Father, even though my outward body is falling apart I will not become discouraged and give up. I know that day by day you are renewing me on the inside. Keep doing your good work in me. Help me to run fast and finish strong in my life of faith in you. Amen

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

Why should you never become discouraged as you age, and your body starts to fall apart?

How are you moving forward with God so you will finish strong as you near the end of your earthly life?

What are you doing to make you end your life of faith with a strong sprint rather than a weak crawl?

What will help or hinder your ability to keep on moving forward in your life of faith with the Lord?

How are you making sure you are not captivated and living for what is seen and will soon disappear?

How has God been renewing your inner being as you continue to love, follow, and serve Him?

What encouragement is yours because you know that God has a glorious future in store for you in heaven?

Living It Out: *(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)*

Keep on moving forward with the Lord so you will finish strong in your life of faith with Him.

Seeing It Happen: *(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)*

Have faith that God will renew you on the inside even as your body falls apart on the outside.

Get Ready To Share: *(What can you share with others from your heart?)*

Share with another person or your small group how day by day God has been renewing you on the inside.

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... _____

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 never give up because God is renewing you inside day by day as you love, follow, and serve Him.

Prayer To Carry

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

Heavenly Father, thank you for renewing me on the inside day by day as love, follow, and serve you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will you renew me on the inside as I love, follow, and serve you today?
