

# AN ETERNAL GLORY

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(Inspired by Stephen and Brooksyne Weber, [www.dailyencouragement.net](http://www.dailyencouragement.net))

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*2 Corinthians 4:17* For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup> 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)

What kind of light and momentary troubles are you dealing with today? At first glance you may assume that “*light and momentary troubles*” are merely the minor annoyances and time stealers of your life such as getting stuck in traffic on Highway 101, spilling hot chocolate on the freshly cleaned kitchen floor as Phoebe did at our home on Saturday, or searching for lost keys as I did last week.

But this is not the case in this text. Paul has described troubles that would rival or surpass our most difficult experiences in life. You may see what I mean just a few verses earlier:

*2 Corinthians 4:8* We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that His life may be revealed in our mortal body”. (NIV)

These are the “*light and momentary troubles*” to which Paul referred. They are “*light and momentary*” in comparison to the ultimate and eternal glories of heaven to which he aspired (as do we). We might argue that such circumstances certainly don't seem light and momentary at the time we're experiencing them! Understandably so. Some of these troubles may be recurring or constant and weigh heavily on your hearts. Some of them are likely appearing in your imagination even as I speak.

God's Word declares that you and I are “*more than conquerors*” (Romans 8:37; NIV). But, what is it that God says we have “*more than conquered*”?

*Romans 8:35* Does it mean [God] no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (NLT)

Then, Paul continues:

*Romans 8:38* I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NLT)

These are the “*light and momentary afflictions,*” the “*all things*” to which Paul referred!

Let this truth be planted deep in your hearts, “*Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*” The small three letter word, “*a-l-l*” encompasses the continual stream of “*light and momentary troubles*” that we call life's trials.

How marvelous is the last part of the verse, *“are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”* These problems are working *for us!* Actually, it is God who is working for us *through our trials.*

*Romans 8:28 We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (NIV)*

Your trials and troubles fulfill a purpose ordained by God — no matter what the devil or his children may have intended — and they achieve for you an eternal glory that far outweighs anything you have endured.

And what is “eternal glory”? Hard to say. We have few things with which to compare it. The Amplified Bible describes it as *“a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!”* (2 Corinthians 4:17; AMP)

Dictionary.com offers two applicable definitions:

1. a state of great splendor, magnificence, or prosperity.
2. a state of absolute happiness, gratification, contentment.

It is these things and it is everlasting! No wonder our trials pale by comparison.

There is much that we can learn from our temporal problems here on earth that better prepares us for eternity. As God helps us work through our troubles He enable us to share the mind (outlook) of Christ.

*Philippians 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NIV)*

You cannot share the same attitude as Christ until you persist in the same faith as Christ to endure similar trials. Everyone wants a faith that will cancel their trials and deliver them from trouble, but the most commonly needed faith is that which enables you to endure hardship like a good soldier. “If you don’t bear the cross, you won’t wear the crown.”

Remember, the three young Hebrew men, who when threatened with death by fire, replied to the king:

*Daniel 3:16 O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up. (NIV)*

That’s real faith — not the kind that dictates to God our terms of blessing, but the kind that resolves to be faithful to God no matter what.

That kind of faith results in attitudes that express the fruit of the Spirit as our spontaneous response to the difficulties that challenge us each day. Just as soil, light, air and moisture are required for plants to grow, so self-denial, prayer, faith, and persistent obedience to God’s Word are required for

spiritual maturation. God, help us not to become so caught up in viewing our daily challenges from an earthly perspective that we fail to see and trust the deeper, spiritual, and eternal purpose for which you are preparing us through all our circumstances.

This “*eternal glory*” must be the ultimate guide by which we view all that happens to us personally or in the world around us. Those who follow Christ live for the “then,” not just for the “now.” It’s something I have learned from the Scripture and know to be true in my heart, yet I need constantly to remind myself. My times are in His hands. With my natural mind I can see only my physical circumstances, but in my spirit I must always contend for that future eternal reward.

The “big picture” is so powerfully expressed by the Apostle Paul in our primary text. Through eyes of faith we rejoice in its truth. But it only pertains to people who live in the faith of Jesus Christ. People without faith are blind to the big picture. Understanding the eternal scope of life only begins when we commit our lives to Christ. “Once I was blind, but now I see,” says the well-known hymn. Have you given your life to Jesus? If you exclude Christ, you can have no intimate friendship with God; and if you do not include God in your thoughts, you cannot see the big picture.

Perhaps you have great trouble seeing the big picture and trusting anything beyond what you have seen. This can change, beginning today. Would you like to give your life to Jesus Christ today and let Him wash your spiritual eyes?

Perhaps you have seen the big picture before, but your confidence in God to manage your life has taken a back seat to your own efforts to control things. Would you like to take these moments to repent of your faltering trust and recommit your faith in Jesus as the Leader of your life?

If you will join me today in a prayer of faith, you may begin a journey of seeing beyond this immediate life and receiving the promised eternal life through faith in Jesus. If you have not done so before, I urge you to pray this prayer from your heart today. And if you have done so already, I encourage you to join me in reaffirming your commitment to Christ today with these words:

“Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned and deserve none of your kindness. Yet I believe that You came to this earth and died on the cross as my substitute, to take away my guilt and shame. I place my faith in You and I will trust what You have done for me. I invite You into my life and I choose this day to follow and serve You. Thank You for hearing my prayer and thank You for giving me eternal life.”

Finally, let us prayerfully entrust all of our troubles and trials to Christ today. His wisdom, His grace, His guidance, and His power are sufficient to lead us through victoriously. Many things challenge *us*, but *nothing* is too difficult for Him. And with our trust in His leadership and our ears open to His guiding voice, nothing shall be too hard for us either. *We shall be* more than conquerors in *all* our trials! And one day, we shall reign with Him as a kingdom of priests on the earth (Revelation 5:10).