



## CELL GUIDE

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**TOPIC** Therefore I do not Lose Heart

**SPEAKER** DSP Edric Sng

**THEME** Living the Christ Life (Luke 9:57-62)

**DATE** 10 & 11 April 2021

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

How do we respond when we are facing trials but have not seen a breakthrough? We may be caught at the point in which we know the promises of God but have not seen the fulfilment of them. 2 Corinthians 4 answers the question on how we should respond, remain faithful and thrive in the tension. There is no reason to be discouraged or lose heart because we know that Jesus exists and can help us; He is real and with us. As a result, we can keep our eyes focused on Him.

## HOW SHOULD WE FACE OUR TRIALS?

### 1. Walk with Jesus (2 Cor 4:7)

If we want Jesus to walk with us through our trials, we should reflect on how we have been walking with Him all this while. We should check on whether we are always close to Him or have wandered off without Him.

John 15:4-5 reminds us to abide in Christ so that He will abide in us as we can do nothing apart from Him. Stay close to God, watch our walk with Him and we will not have to lose heart as we will have the all-surpassing power of God with us. We need this power because we are “jars of clay” (v7); being weak and having limits, we need His all-surpassing power to exceed the limits. When we see the impossible happen, we will be able to humbly acknowledge that it is from God and not from us. As we walk with Jesus, we will see Him walk with us and revealed through the power of the Holy Spirit. We will experience His supernatural protection, provision and favour.

### 2. Witness for Jesus (2 Cor 4:15)

We will always face resistance and troubles if we believe in Christ. Despite facing these, we will never face them to the point that we are lost and have no more hope. In fact, the more we die for Jesus, the more we will see the life of Jesus revealed in us. Jesus will increase in our lives as we decrease. The One who raised Jesus will raise us and grant us grace to face such situations. This grace will be witnessed by others as they watch us go through these situations; the Saviour is revealed as He saves us. Therefore, we should consider our perspective of the

situations we face. Do we stop to see how God can work through our situations for His glory? We should see them from a God perspective so that we can be witnesses for Jesus. Our tests can become testimonies for God when people see Jesus in our responses to situations, especially in the valleys of our lives.

Gratitude is one of the most powerful attitudes that we can display in our witness for Jesus (v15). We bring glory to God when we give Him the gratitude He deserves. We can be a powerful witness for Jesus when we speak with overflowing gratitude, with grace that we have received and with faith declaring the promises of God.

### **3. Watch out for Jesus (2 Cor 4:16-18)**

We do not lose heart no matter how bad things are for two reasons. Firstly, in the here and now, we are being renewed day by day. God strengthens our inner man, soothes our souls, lifts up our spirits and helps us in our situations when we walk with Him. We therefore do not lose heart when we believe that we will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living (Psa 27:13). Instead of focusing on the outside reflection, we should focus on the inside which is Christlikeness. Secondly, our trials are temporary but our relief and reward are for eternity. We are to watch out for Jesus, fixing our eyes on Him, so that we can see our circumstances like Him. We should look at the work that is on us as not merely circumstantial but as what is going on inside us. Shifting our perspective to that of God's, we will see that what we face are momentary troubles in the light of eternity.

## **CONCLUSION**

The heavenly kingdom is worth waiting for. Therefore, we do not lose heart. In the here and now, look for the all-surpassing power of the Holy Spirit by walking with Jesus. Learn to do things His way and draw comfort from Jehovah Shalom. We will also become powerful witnesses for Jesus if we continue to sing the song of thanksgiving, express grace as we receive grace and declare by faith the unfulfilled promises of God into the fulfilled promises of God. Lastly, we will know that God has a better place for us in eternity when we focus our eyes on Christ. Do not lose heart! We can go through life with an eternal perspective and for eternal impact.

# QUESTIONS

1. What trial are you facing today that is causing you to lose heart? How does going through this trial challenge your faith?

2. Reflect on your walk with God and the difficult situations that brought you closer to God.

- A. How is the current state of your walk with God affecting the way you face your trials?
- B. What did you learn about God through the trials that brought you closer to God? How did God use your experiences to mould you and comfort others?

3. We are called to fix our eyes on Jesus and look from His perspective. Our trials are temporal and we should work towards eternity. How will this change the way you view *and* act in your current situation?