

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE	Daily Renewal
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SERIES	Godly Reset
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DATE	2/14/2021
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KEY SCRIPTURE	2 Corinthians 4:16-18
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SYNOPSIS	Even though there may be troubles all around, we don't have to be overcome or defeated. We can be renewed every day as we trust God through it all.
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HIGHLIGHTS	n/a
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☛ Daily Renewal

Godly Reset: God has promised a restoration of his people and to make visitation upon us. Just like Samson, the church has compromised, but will in the end have a powerful comeback as God restores. Our part in this Godly Reset is to partner with God and welcome his presence. This means we are called to repent, change our way of thinking to align with God and return to him as our highest priority. Then, times of refreshing will come from the Lord.

☛ 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 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.

The story is told of a man who was walking across the road when he was hit by a car. The impact knocked him on his head which caused him to be in a coma for a couple of days before he finally regained consciousness. When he opened his eyes, his loving wife was there beside his bed holding his hand.

He said, "You know, Judy, you've always been right by my side. When I was a struggling college student, I failed again and again. But you were always there with me, encouraging me to go on trying."

He said, "And when I got out of school and went for all of my interviews and failed to get any of the jobs, you stayed right there with me, cutting out more classifieds for me to check on..."

"Then I started work at this little firm and finally got the chance to handle a big contract. But I blew it because of one little mistake, and yet you were there beside me all the way. Then I finally got another job after being laid off for some time. But I never seemed to be promoted and my hard work was never recognized. And so, I remained in the same position from the day I joined the company until now..."

And, through it all, you were right there by my side."

Her eyes started to fill with tears as she listened. He said, "And now I've been in this accident and when I wake up, you're the first person I see. There's something I'd really like to say to you..." He said, "Judy, I think you're just plain bad luck!"

Not what she was expecting to hear...

I wonder if that's what God hears from us, too. He walks with us through our hardships and the valley of death, through troubles, tribulations, and difficult times, and instead of thanking him for being there, we turn our back, we raise our fist, we say – why are you putting me through this? Don't you care, God?

When your troubles keep building upon each other will you cling to God during those times or will you turn away? Think about it. Is your faith strong enough to weather the hurricane of doubt and hardships? Will you stay fresh and strong in your faith?

Paul faced more challenging situations than most of us ever will, yet he called them light and momentary troubles. He mastered something that most of us have not yet. He learned how to be renewed daily. We all face troubles of various kinds, but we can be renewed day by day. Here's how:

1. ☛ Keep your Focus

--Aristotle Onassis... It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light.

--Bruce Lee... The successful warrior is the average man, with laser-like focus.



☞ **Focus on the future** (v. 17 an eternal glory)

The light at the end of the tunnel. When you're in the darkest and most trying times, it helps to remember that this world and this life is not all there is. There is an eternity of blissful life ahead for the believer. Never lose sight of that truth. Your few years in this life may be uncertain, but the ultimate future is established by God.

--Corrie Ten Boom... *Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.*

But we do know some things about our future...

Revelation 21:3-5

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order ☞ of things has passed away." **5** He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making **everything new!**"

Revelation 22:4-5

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light.

☞ **Focus on faith** (v. 18 unseen)

A man fell off a cliff, but managed to grab a tree limb on the way down. The following conversation ensued: "Is anyone up there?" "I am here. I am the Lord. Do you believe me?" "Yes, Lord, I believe. I really believe, but I can't hang on much longer." "That's all right, if you really believe you have nothing to worry about. I will save you. Just let go of the branch." A moment of pause, then: "Is anyone else up there?"

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

This life obscures reality with all kinds of troubles and lies, but we choose to believe God in spite of the circumstances going on around us.

2 Corinthians 5:7

We live by faith, not by sight.

Trust God and keep your focus on him! This is not blind faith, but rather reasonable faith. We don't see and understand everything, so we can't rely on sight, but we do have credible information in the Bible to strengthen our faith and trust God.

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. NKJV

☞ **Focus on forever** (v. 18 the unseen is eternal)



The future in store for believers is literally out of this world. God is making all things new and we get to be part of that. There are things yet unseen that will come to be very soon, and the future God has in store will be forever.

1 Peter 1:4

...an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you,

Revelation 22:5

And they will reign for ever and ever.

Keep your Focus! We have a fantastic future that will be forever if we keep the faith.

2. ☞ **Keep Facing troubles firmly**

4:7-9 “we are hard pressed on every side” – sometimes that’s how trouble comes at us...

Life is not about avoiding troubles, but about surmounting difficulties and overcoming obstacles.

Are you traumatized or transformed by troubles? Do you thank God in advance and in faith for the grace that is ever increasing?

- ☞ **Pressed, but not Defeated** (“between a rock and a hard place”)
- ☞ **Perplexed, but not Despairing** (life often doesn’t make sense)
- ☞ **Persecuted, but not Deserted** (Jesus is always with us, Heb. 13:5)
- ☞ **Pounded, but not Destroyed** (God comforts the downcast, 2 Cor. 7:6)

In all of our troubles God is always near and caring for us, so don’t let troubles overwhelm you. In those troubles, look for God and see how he is shaping you through it all.

There's an Ozark story about a hound sitting in a country store and howling as hounds do. In comes a stranger who says to the storekeeper, "What's the matter with the dog?" "He's sitting on a cocklebur." "Why doesn't he get off of it?" "He'd rather holler." (Instead...)

☞ **Accentuate the Positive** by Bing Crosby

You've got to accentuate the positive; Eliminate the negative; Latch on to the affirmative

v. 16 We do not lose heart in spite of outwardly wasting away

v. 17 These are only light and momentary troubles

--Chuck Swindoll... Every problem is an opportunity to prove God's power. Every day we encounter countless golden opportunities, brilliantly disguised as insurmountable problems.

Blessings in Disguise...

God sees the big picture, he knows what we don't know

He's watching over us, he wants to see us grow

What we see as a problem, he sees as a plan

He doesn't waste a moment, our lives are in his hand

He wants to bless his people, but we must realize

That when his blessings come to us sometimes they're in disguise



Keep facing those troubles head on and see what God does in you as you persevere.

3. 📖 **Keep the Faith**

Faith is fundamental to our Christian walk.

Hebrews 11:6
without faith it is impossible to please God,

It's faith that overcomes the world. (1 John 5:4)

Isaiah 40:31 (*hope, which is faith in the future, is what renews us*)
those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

2 Timothy 1:6 (*in reference to Timothy's sincere faith...*)
I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you...

Keep and grow your faith by doing this:

📖 **Rehearse the Truth** (v. 13 Believe and speak)

Psalms 145:13
The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.

Do you really believe this? Then speak it out. Remind yourself of God's promises.

Ephesians 4:15
speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head

📖 This "speaking the truth" is not just about avoiding lies; it's about **saying what God says**.

Don't say, "It's impossible" because with God "All things are possible." (Luke 18:27)

Don't say, "I can't go on" because God says, "My grace is sufficient for you." (2 Cor 12:9)

Don't say, "I can't do it" because God says, "I can do all things through Christ." (Phil 4:13)

Don't say, "I'm afraid." God says, "I have not given you a spirit of fear." (2 Tim 1:7)

Don't say, "I'm worried and frustrated." God says, "Cast all your cares on ME." (1 Pet 5:7)

Don't say, "I'm not smart enough" because God says, "I give you wisdom." (1 Cor 1:30)

Don't say, "I am all alone." God says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Heb 13:5)

Don't say, "It's not worth it" because God says, "It will be worth it." (Rom 8:2)



☞ Remember Tomorrow

v. 14 **We will be raised**

Even if the troubles we face bring death, we will be raised to life again. There is a resurrection to eternal life for the believer.

When you think about eternity or heaven, what excites you the most? Is it reuniting with loved ones or streets of gold or what? Take a moment and share with those next to you. And if you're online, make a text comment so others can see your thoughts.

I also believe that in spite of the condition of the church in today's world, God has a plan for restoration. He's not done with us yet. His promise is one of restoration. I believe that a resurrection of his people is coming very soon so, hang in there and trust God's redemptive power.

☞ v. 14 **We will be in his presence**

Psalms 16:11 speaks of the joy and pleasure in his presence. And Psalms 89:15 speaks of the light of his presence.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

we will be with the Lord forever.

I believe, just as with the resurrection I just mentioned, that there is coming a restoration of the powerful presence of the Lord with his people. I am praying and believing for the presence of God with us so that there will be healings and miracles as we read about in the bible. I believe there is coming a Last Days revival of God's people. His presence will be strong with us. These thoughts keep me going and help me to be renewed day by day.

You can be Renewed Daily:

☞ **Keep your Focus; Keep Facing troubles Firmly; Keep the Faith.**