

IV. MOTIVATOR: CONFIDENT FAITH

A. Believe and speak the Word of God.

“And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak,” II Corinthians 4:13

“I believed, therefore I spoke, “I am greatly afflicted.”
Psalm 116:10

B. Focus on the resurrection and victory of Jesus.

“knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.”
II Corinthians 4:14

“57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

I Corinthians 15:57-58

V. MOTIVATOR: SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

A. Have daily devotions and attend a weekly church service for renewal.

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.”
II Corinthians 4:16

“But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”
Matthew 4:4

“I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the LORD.”
Psalm 122:1

B. Focus on eternity with Jesus.

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,”
II Corinthians 4:17

Trade In Your Discouragement For Jesus’ Motivation

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

Trade In Your Discouragement For Jesus’ Motivation

Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. Are you ready for a change? The cross of Jesus Christ was the place where the great exchange took place. His all for our nothing. His righteousness for our sin. His death for our life.

And it did not end there. Through the power of the gospel many more exchanges take place today for those “in Christ”.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
II Corinthians 5:17

B. The Bible book of II Corinthians reveals seven beautiful ways Jesus can change your life. Attend The Great Exchange teaching series and discover how to trade your pain for Jesus’ new life. The messages include:

Apr 16 Trade In Your Sin For Jesus’ Righteousness

Apr 23 Trade In Your Depression For Jesus’
Encouragement

May 1 Trade In Your Grudges For Jesus’
Forgiveness

TODAY Trade In Your Discouragement For Jesus’
Motivation

May 15 Trade In Your Suffering For Jesus’
Perfection

May 22 Trade In Your Greed For Jesus’ Generosity

May 29 Trade In Your Weakness For Jesus’ Strength

Come and hear these messages learn valuable lessons for building your story today.

C. **TEXT:** II Corinthians 4:1-18

Discouragement is common and recurring. Paul said twice, once at the beginning and again at the end of the chapter, “Do not lose heart” (4:1,16). What does this mean? It means do not be discouraged! When we get discouraged we “lose heart” or another way of saying it is we lose our motivation. Paul motivated himself by not focusing on his problems, but rather focusing on what he possessed in Jesus.

HOW TO TRADE IN YOUR DISCOURAGEMENT FOR JESUS' MOTIVATION

I. MOTIVATOR: GLORIOUS MINISTRY

- A. Every believer has a ministry to preach the gospel.

"Therefore, since we have this ministry,..."

I Corinthians 4:1a

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

II Corinthians 3:18

"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15

"10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 ...If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified ..."

I Peter 4:10-11b

- B. Focus on the perseverance of Jesus.

"...as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart."

II Corinthians 4:1b

"... "It is finished..."

John 19:30b

II. MOTIVATOR: SERVING PEOPLE

- A. Understand that true greatness is measured by servanthood.

"For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

II Corinthians 4:5

"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant."

Matthew 20:26

- B. Focus on the mind of Jesus.

*"12 So then death is working in us, but life in you.
15 For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God."*

II Corinthians 4:12,15

*"5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."*

Philippians 2:5,7

III. MOTIVATOR: CHRISTLIKE SUFFERING

- A. Expect to suffer while serving God and people.

*"8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—"*

II Corinthians 4:8-9

"For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,"

Philippians 1:29

- B. Focus on the suffering and death of Jesus.

"always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."

II Corinthians 4:10

"He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Matthew 26:39

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Galatians 2:20