

Living in Hope with the One Leader Study Series

Title: **Contagious Grace**

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Key Scripture Verses: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Clay Pots Full of Treasure

“⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.”

We are nothing, yet we have everything because we have the treasure of Christ alive in us, which is a demonstration of the infinite power of God in us. We have the treasure—the unfathomable riches of Christ—within us.

- **We need to appropriate and possess the treasure of Christ so we can live in God’s unlimited power, not our limited strength. He is the source of the abundant life.**

Conquerors in Our Challenges

*“⁸ We are: afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not despairing;
⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed.”*

Despite having the abundant life and treasures of Christ, we live in a fallen and dark world. It will be difficult, painful, and hurtful, yet these conditions and circumstances do not define us—they refine us and grow us. They purify and shape us, so we can relate and be a comfort to others in times of need.

- **Embrace the suffering, learn from it. This will prepare you and give you a ministry of encouraging and helping others.**

Carrying the Life of Christ in Us

“¹⁰ Always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death works in us, but life in you.”

We are humans, and in our mortal bodies we have been given a sentence of death. At the same time we have the very life of Christ in us, so that when we die to self the life of Christ in us shines through. We manifest Him with all of His glory, hope, and love to a world that is desperate.

- **Die to self and let the light of Christ be manifest through you.**

Contagious Grace

*“¹³ But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, ‘I believed, therefore I spoke,’ we also believe, therefore we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you. ¹⁵ For all things are for your sakes, so that **the grace which is spreading to more and more people** may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.”*

With the life of Christ in us, we can walk by faith so that we are conduits of His grace that is viral and spreads to all. The result of this contagion of grace is speaking forth thanksgiving and glorifying God.

- **Walk by faith, speak the mysteries of Christ, be others focused.**

Courage Comes from the Eternal

“¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ 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.”

Having experienced the life of Christ, the forgiveness of sin, and the eternal life, now we are filled with courage and do not lose heart. It is more than a positive mental attitude; it is His eternal life flowing through us that carries us through affliction. We know that life in the world is temporary, yet life in the Kingdom is forever. Difficulties will clarify our true hope.

- **Be of great courage, the best is yet to come. Keep looking up, walking forward, being renewed, and offering hope.**

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