

## Living in Hope with the One Leader Study Series

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### Title: *Handling the Uncertainty and Trials of Life*

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#### 2 Sets of Choices: Inward and Outward

- **Inward: Do Not Lose Heart**
- **Outward: Clarify Your True Hope**

We face difficult days ahead with many unknowns. People will be panicking and reacting, looking for someone to blame. There will be anger, fear, despair, and even death. We will lose jobs, money, and efficiency. In these times of great uncertainty and trials, we need to make wise choices as they relate to our inner man and our outward perspective. As Christians we should be beacons of hope and encouragement to our families, the church, and to a lost world in need.

#### The Inward / Not Losing Heart (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). Strengthen the heart and mind. Battle emotions and isolation.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18** *“<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> 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.”*

Paul was encouraging the believers not to lose heart. Paul had endured great hardships and painful suffering. **Losing heart** was a reality for those early disciples as they gave up their livelihood, endured rejection of family and friends, and faced great uncertainty while they followed Jesus and now as they were being persecuted. We all can “lose heart” and become discouraged and give up hope. We live in a fallen world with difficulties and heartache. Today is such a time, bringing great uncertainty, fear, despair, and the list goes on.

*Paul teaches “Do not lose heart” in three ways. These are choices and actions we make.*

- **Renewal of the Inner Man.** Even though the body is dying, the inner man is being renewed daily.
  - Renewal is from prayer, the Word, worship, and community.  
*In Luke 18:1, Jesus taught “a parable to show that at all times they ought to **pray and not to lose heart.**”*
  - Balance what you put in your heart. Limit the noise of the world.
  - Increase your Faith through prayer and the Word.
- **Shaped by Suffering for an Eternal Gain.** Our momentary light affliction is producing an eternal weight of glory.

- Embrace the affliction and pain; learn from it; persevere. Go through trials; produce more fruit by ministering to others.

*Galatians 6:9* **“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.”**

- Actively helping others gets our mind and heart on others and off of self.
  - Extend your love by serving others.
- **Look with the Perspective of Eternal.** Our hope is not walking by sight, but our hope is in the unseen.

We must press in and press on. We are to be a light to the world. We must not lose heart! We must not despair or walk in fear. This can only come from Christ living in and through us and from God’s Word.

## **The Outward / Clarifying Your True Hope (Romans 8:18, 24, 37-38). Battle the noise, distraction, and being entangled.**

### **3 Reflections on Hope—Our Outward Perspective and Future Motivation**

**Romans 8:18, 24-25** *“<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ... <sup>24</sup> For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”*

- **Hope is clarified and increases in the times of difficulty to hold us (anchor us) to the Lord in the storms of life.**

Too often the temporal circumstances frame how we view eternity, God, and why we do what we do. Hope sets the direction of the purpose in our life. From purpose come priorities and the opportunity to say NO to busyness.

- **Hope emboldens us to take risks.** **Heb 11:1** *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*
- **Hope is sure and victorious because it is founded on God’s love and His promise** in **Romans 8:37-39** *“<sup>37</sup> But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

**1 Timothy 6:17-19** *“<sup>17</sup> Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. <sup>18</sup> Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup> storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”*

**Fixing our Hope on the Lord leads to: God supplying, doing good, being rich in good works, generosity, sharing, storing up treasure, and taking hold of life indeed.**

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