

God's transforming

P O W E R I N W E A K N E S S

> Studies in 2 Corinthians
Part 2 (Chapters 4-6)



TOONGABBIE
ANGLICAN
CHURCH



> Study 1: 4:1-18 Do not lose heart


What's it like to be under pressure? Why is it so easy to "lose heart" under pressure?

How is it that Paul can say "don't lose heart" v1, v16? (This is a bigger question than it seems and you might find yourself coming back to it throughout the study.)

What are the differences and similarities between Paul's own context and ours?

Despite differences, the "same spirit of faith" encourages Paul, the Corinthians and us. What is that faith / gospel?

How might we share this with others who need encouragement? Note that Paul does not minimise the difficulties, which we can easily do with pithy encouragement.



Think about how people might perceive you if/as you live this out (v15). What might they see?

Reword v16-18 into a single sentence that you might carry as an encouragement this week.

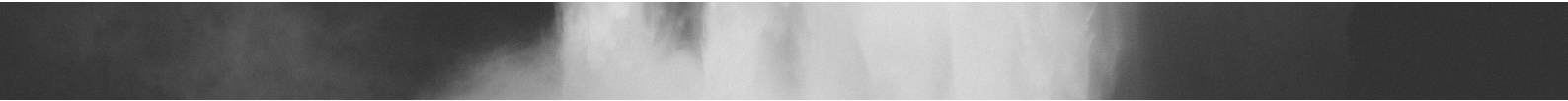
> Study 2: 5:1-10 Living By Faith

Christians have thought about living in this world in various ways through history. One extreme we might have 'this world means nothing, it's all about heaven' and the other putting an emphasis on pursuing heaven on earth. Where might you place yourself on such a spectrum? Why?

Note that the bodily resurrection of Christ within creation speaks highly of creation (the world) although there's more to the story!

Paul uses a range of metaphors in this passage. What does he mean by:

- building?
- tent?
- clothed/naked?
- home?



Paul imagines life without the resurrection in 1 Cor 15:32: 'If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."'. How does 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 paint a better picture of life with the resurrection?

We might be comfortable with finishing at verse 9. But Paul goes further to say verse 10. What's the connection? And how does this fit with justification by faith (consider Romans 8:1)?
See also: Psalm 10:18, Amos 5:24

Christians are heaven powered people, filled with the Spirit, secure in the future, wanting all people to know the Lord and be saved. How might this passage keep us focussed? How might it shift your perspective and direction this week?

> Study 3: 5:11-6:2 Ambassadors!

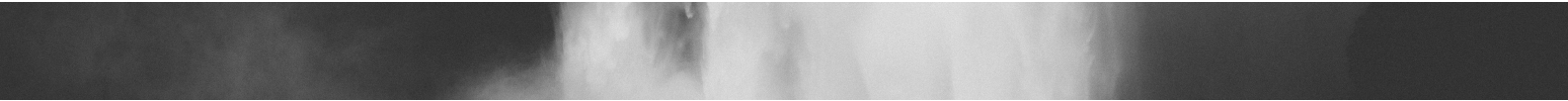
What does it mean to be an ambassador?

The gospel re-defines our citizenship (“ambassador”) and our view of others (v16,17). How so?

What does it mean to be reconciled to God? How might you explain it to someone who doesn’t know Jesus (and what would make this hard to understand)?

How does reconciliation speak into the “old is gone” and the “new has come”? How does this radical statement (v17) encourage us in our growth, our failures and our ultimate identity?

List all the reasons Paul gives in verses 11-21 for sharing with others the gospel of reconciliation with God.



Who can you pray for this week as you live as an ambassador seeking to “persuade others”?

NOTES

