
DON'T GIVE UP – Part 1**2 Corinthians 4:1-6 (NKJV)**

¹ Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.

² But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

We have many reasons to be discouraged. Some are real and some are figments of our imagination. Either real or imaginary, we tend to dwell on these things (personal failure, lack, family issues, conflict, and “so-called friends”) far too often.

We shouldn't waste efforts dwelling on the problems we have created by thoughts or by deeds, but glory in the things of God.

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

II Cor. 4:1 – Reminds us not to give up or give in even when circumstances and situations aren't as we want them to be. Despite what is going on arounds us, His mercies abound.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (NKJV)

²² *Through* the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. ²³ *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

II Cor. 4: 2 - 4 keeps us from delivering deceptive teachings and false doctrine; false doctrine such as: salvation requires something in addition to the blood and body of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a lie to have people believe they have to perform some ritual or ceremony or other works of the flesh.

Satan keeps non-believers in the dark.

II Cor. 4: 5-6 – Keeps us from the “Look at Me” syndrome.

Galatians 6:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.