

Renewed Day by Day

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, “16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

Introduction: In psychotherapy, a paradigm shift in a person’s behavior usually happens within the sixth and eight sessions. A change of character, philosophy, or mindset does not happen in an instant. Most of the time, it takes a lot of days, a lot of thinking before we experience change. However, many people, though we know that the only constant thing in this world is change, are resistant to change. By resistant, they are resisting it. While others, when a political personality brands, “change is coming” or “this is the time to change the system” then people would tend to look forward to that. Moreover, while some expects change, others do not want change like in a relationship. When you heard, “Ohhh you’ve changed a lot.” Is it for the better or worse?” Well change is complicated in the world’s view.

Background: “Renewal” pertains to the process of change. Meaning, there is a development each time we experience change. Indeed, we become a different person each day. Your experience yesterday adds up to your former self. But what makes the principle of change in biblical term—or the term being renewed—is that it leads to a certain goal. A person is not only being changed each day for no purpose. The biblical reality is that a Christian is being renewed each day towards Christlikeness.

The goal of being renewed day by day is to be more like Christ. The Greek term (*anakainoo*) in this passage same in Colossians 3:10 is in present participle (“is being renewed”) which implies continuation. In theological term, this is sanctification, being made holy each passing day.

While Paul here, contrasts that each day, our physical body becomes weaker, yet our spirituality ought to become stronger every day. Though both are important aspects of life, Paul here is telling Christians that there is far more exceeding significance than the world focuses on. There is an eternal weight.

Main Idea: Discern (Holy Spirit) – “and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator” (Colossians 3:10). It appeals to our minds that to change is to become more like Christ. That then should be the mindset of a Christian person. Is this renewal that I am experiencing, or a change in life that I am expecting will lead me to more like Christ? If yes, then embrace it. If not, then pray to God that He will sustain you through that struggle and this will come to pass. If unsure, read God’s Word and be enlightened to what really is God’s will (idea of God’s Will).

Desire (Kingdom Renewal) – our desire each not limited to material things—objects that are seen and tangible. A Christian’s desire of renewal is closely related to the Kingdom renewal. This is the same principle when Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, “We pray that your kingdom will come—that what you want will be done here on earth, the same as in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

Display (Eternal Life) – “If we say we live in God, we must live the way Jesus lived” (1 John 2:6). The chapter before our passage, in 2 Cor 3:2-3, states that we are the living witnesses of Christ in this world. Sometimes, we fall short to see other people as a person; we see them as object to proselyte. Our aim in this renewal is to display the eternal life that we have as witnesses of Christ to be a living testimony of how great our Lord is in our lives.

Conclusion: While everything in this world changes, our confidence (which was repeated many times in the book of 2 Corinthians) is in Christ. Why Jesus? Because we would rather put our faith on someone who does not change. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb 13:8). “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17).