

Keeping My Focus on the Eternal

*Sunday July 18, 2021
Series: Authentic Ministry*

*“And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”
Luke 9:23–25 ESV*

I. God’s Working in Me is My Greatest Treasure

*“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”
2 Corinthians 4:7 ESV*

My Real Treasure

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:17–18 ESV

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”
Galatians 5:22–23 ESV*

God Is the Source of Spiritual Power in My Life

“so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:5 ESV

II. My Challenges are My Metals of Honor

*“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”
Matthew 25:21 ESV*

*“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.”
2 Corinthians 4:8–10 ESV*

1. Stressed but having Hope — “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;”

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1 ESV

2. Confused By Keeping it Together — ”perplexed, but not driven to despair;”

“And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”
Deuteronomy 8:3 ESV

3. Attacked But Not Left Behind — ”persecuted, but not forsaken”

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.””
Hebrews 13:5 ESV

4. Taking Hits But Getting Back Up — ”persecuted, but not forsaken”

“for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.”
Proverbs 24:16 ESV

My Metals of Honor

“always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.”
2 Corinthians 4:10 ESV

III. Three Tools for Staying Focused on the Eternal

1. Grasp On — to What I Know

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.”
2 Corinthians 4:16 ESV

2. Count On — My Challenges Will All Be Worth It

“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,”
2 Corinthians 4:17 ESV

3. Focus On — My Future Not the Present

“as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:18 ESV

“And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”
Luke 9:23–25 ESV