

Dying, Yet Living by Faith

2 Corinthians 4:7-14

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- All of us know what it is like to live with the “daily grind”
- Paul maintained his passion for ministry in spite of the daily grind.
 - 2 Timothy 4:7-- “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith!”

Dying, Yet Living by Faith!

A. We must die daily to live for Christ

- 2 Corinthians 4:7-12-- *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you.”*
1. The **PRICE** of being Christ’s disciples
 - Luke 9:23-24-- *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”*
 2. The **PROCESS** of dying daily
 - a. God uses the “daily grind” in dying process
 - b. Jesus experienced the “dying process”
 - 2 Corinthians 13:4a-- *“For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God!”*
 - c. We are to follow His example
 - 2 Corinthians 13:4b-- *“For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.”*
 - Galatians 2:20a-- *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in me.”*
 3. The **PROSPECTS** of a “living sacrifice”
 - 2 Corinthians 4:11-- *“For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.”*
 - a. Constantly dying so Christ’s life may be seen in us.
 - b. Not a one-time decision, but a daily choice.
 - c. Ministry involves personal sacrifice.
 4. The **PRODUCT** of dying and living
 - 2 Corinthians 4:12-- *“So then death is working in us but life in you!”*
 - a. Life is communicated to others
 - John 12:24-26a-- *“Most assuredly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me.”*
 - b. We are here today because someone sacrificed their lives for us.
 - c. Our passion is renewed by single-hearted devotion.

B. We must live by faith, not feelings.

- 2 Corinthians 4:13-14-- *"And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you."*
1. Computer operating systems—PC and MACS
 2. Two Spiritual "Operating Systems"
 - a. Feelings—emotionally charged
 - 1) Basic operating system of post-Christian world
 - 2) Seed planted in "stony soil"
 - Matthew 13:5-6-- *"fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away."*
 - Matthew 13:20-21-- *"hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles!"*
 - 3) Spiritual Passion has an emotional dimension, but not based on emotions.
 - b. Faith—Scripturally grounded
 - 1) *"We believe and therefore speak"*
 - Psalm 116:3-- *"The pains of death surrounded me. And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow."*
 - Psalm 116:15-- *"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints."*
 - Psalm 116:8-10a-- *"For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. I believed, therefore I spoke, 'I am greatly afflicted.'"*
 - 2) Sources of Living Faith
 - a) Produced in us by the Spirit of God
 - 2 Corinthians 4:13-- *"And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believed and therefore I spoke,' we also believe and therefore speak."*
 - b) He develops within us convictions based on God's Word.
 - Romans 10:17-- *"faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."*
 - c) Two strong convictions that propelled Paul
 - 2 Corinthians 4:13-14-- *"And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you."*
 - (1) Future resurrection guarantees our labor will not be in vain
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58-- *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."*
 - (2) Future presentation guarantees our labor will be rewarded
 - 2 Corinthians 4:14-- *"knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you."*
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10-- *"For we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, that each may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*