

The Paradox of Powerlessness

2 Corinthians 4:7-10

We may be afraid to admit that we are powerless and that our lives are unmanageable. If we admit that we are powerless, won't we be tempted to give up completely in the struggle against our sins? It doesn't seem to make sense that we can admit powerlessness and still find the power to go on.

Life is full of paradoxes. The apostle Paul tells us, "We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair" (2 Corinthians 4:7-8). The picture here contrasts a precious treasure and the simple container in which the treasure is stored. The living power poured into our lives from above is the treasure. Our human bodies, with all their flaws and weaknesses, are the perishable containers. As human beings, we are imperfect.

Once we recognize the paradox of powerlessness, we can be quite relieved. We don't have to always be strong or pretend to be perfect. We can live a real life, with its daily struggles, in a human body beset with weakness and still find the power from above to keep going without being crushed and broken.

God’s Glory

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

The glory of God is seen in the new covenant as well as the old. But rather than being reflected on the outside, as with Moses' face, the glory of the new covenant involves a transformation from the inside out. This glory shines through the lives of all who trust Jesus Christ and pursue true recovery in the power of the Holy Spirit. The further we progress in our relationship with God, the more visible God's glory becomes in our lives.

Entrust our Life to God

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

If we refuse to recognize the sins in our lives, we are in denial and are headed for destruction. If Satan has blinded us to our sins and addictions, we cannot accept the gift of forgiveness that God offers us through a relationship with Jesus Christ. The only way to overcome the powerful effects of our sins is to admit our helplessness and entrust our lives to God. He will help us take an honest inventory of our lives and empower us to change. But we begin the process by shedding our denial and accepting the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Everlasting Joy

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

When we entrust our lives to God, two opposite and somewhat confusing processes are simultaneously at work. On the one hand, the body's physical deterioration and eventual death are inevitable, as are the distressing trials that accompany life on this earth. On the other hand, our spirit is being renewed, preparing us day-by-day for the overwhelming glory and blessing we will experience in the presence of God throughout eternity. If we trust God to help us in our troubles now, we can look beyond those troubles to the everlasting joy he has for us in eternity.

Leadership

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Aaron Kays – Building & Grounds		505-879-4624
Daniâl King – Benevolence		208-970-5078
Les & Teresa Pope – Special Programs		208-524-0238

Supported Missionaries and Works

Glenn Langston - Blind Ministry	Nathan and Alvin Luther – Philippines	Caleb Odle - Arlington, Texas
Ghana West Africa Water Project		Cimi Kafexhiu - The Church in Durres, Albania

Entrust our Life to God

2 Corinthians 5:6-9

The fact that God is preparing a new body and a better home for us at the end of our physical lives cannot be proven scientifically; it must be accepted by faith because God told us so (see Hebrews 11:1). Such faith always pleases God, and it helps us overcome our great fear of death-the doorway to eternal life with God (see John 14:2-3). It is important in recovery that we entrust our lives to God and seek to please him. Knowing that God wants to give us something special after this life can give us confidence and motivate us to trust him now.

Consequences and Motives

2 Corinthians 5:10-11

Consequences and motives are major issues in the recovery process. Consequences for selfish and destructive actions reach even beyond the boundaries of this life. All of us will have to stand before Christ and receive his piercing evaluation. For those of us who have believed in Jesus Christ for salvation, this judgment will also include the giving of rewards. Understanding that our actions and commitments have eternal consequences can help us think twice before we act and us to live according to God's program.

Today's Service

#4 – To God Be the Glory	Pew Packers
#300 – Praise Him! Praise Him!	Lesson
Prayer	#666 – I Am Thine, O Lord
#387 – Tell Me the Story of Jesus	#383 – Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross
#947 – Jesus Is Tenderly Calling	Communion
Scripture Reading	Contribution
#514 – Redeemed	#508 – A Wonderful Savior
#480 – Blessed Assurance	Announcements
	Prayer

Calendar

Sunday	10:00 am	Bible Study	At the building and live stream
Sunday	11:00 am	Worship	At the building and live stream
Sunday	4:00 pm	Walking the 12 Steps with Jesus	At Pam & Rob's
Wednesday	10:30 am	Senior Breakfast	At Perkins Restaurant
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Bible Study	At the building
Saturday	7:00 pm	Teen Group	At the building

Feb 18th **Senior Breakfast** 10:30 at the building. Seniors, caregivers, and friends are all invited. (3rd Saturday each month.)

Mar 16-18th **Idaho Men's Retreat '23**: There will be a Men's Retreat at the Railroad Ranch Dormitory and Dining Hall at Harriman State Park in Island Park. The cost is \$35 per person which includes lodging and meals. This retreat is open to teens also. We will begin Thursday early evening and finish Saturday early afternoon. If you have any questions, please ask Andy.

May 18-20th **Montana Men's Retreat**: "Creating Communities of Conviction" at the C-N Camp near Augusta, MT. Guest speakers are Carlus Guppton, Wade Purdom, and Matt Burleson. Cost is \$150 for adults, \$90 for under 19, includes Thursday dinner, Friday all meals, Saturday breakfast & lunch.

Prayers and Praise

- Congratulations to Kelsey & Austin on the birth of Penny Faye Blue on 1/14/23 – 7 lb 7 oz, 21" long.
- Prayers for all in our extended family who are dealing with Covid.
- Prayers for Briley, coping with Marfans syndrome.
- Prayers for continued healing for Kay's nephew Jeremy.
- Prayers for Gary, Rob, Kyle & Andy as they lead our congregation.
- Prayers for Ryan Burns, Jordan Allbritten, and Thomas Mullinaux, serving in the armed forces.
- Prayers for our widows: Myrna, Ella, Miriam, Louise, Sallye, & Carolyn.

The Church of Christ in Idaho Falls

January 22, 2023

Welcome!

We're a bible-based congregation of Christians meeting in Idaho Falls to praise and worship the one God and to support and encourage each other. All are welcome! Please join us in our worship services and classes.



Meditation for Today

The life-line, the line of rescue, is the line from the soul to God. On one end of the life-line is our faith and on the other end is God's power. It can be a strong line and no soul can be overwhelmed who is linked to God by it. I will trust in this life-line and never be afraid. God will save me from doing wrong and from the cares and troubles of life. I will look to God for help and trust Him for aid when I am emotionally upset.

I pray that no lack of trust or fearfulness will make me disloyal to God. I pray that I may keep a strong hold on the life-line of faith.

Online Bulletin at <https://ifcocminister.wixsite.com/mysite/general-8>