

THIS LIGHT MOMENTARY AFFLICTION

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17-18 // TODD DUGARD

JANUARY 9, 2022

Every difficulty you face in life as a Christian...is a light momentary affliction (4:17a)...is preparing you for something better (4:17b)...is only to be weighed against God's glory (4:17c)...is an opportunity to exercise or abandon your faith (4:18a)...is a reminder to never trust your eyes (4:18b)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you relate to people who are feeling the weight of the world and as though troubles will never come to an end? Should Christians admit to these struggles?
2. If Paul agonized to you about the things he suffered as a Christian, what eternal and weighty ideas would you have him focus on? (*Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-27 to get a sense of what afflictions Paul endured.*)
3. Do you ever catch yourself comparing your level of suffering to another person's experience? What tends to happen when you look at someone who has things "easier" than you do? Whose glory is in mind when you do this?
4. Let's put faith to work! In what way are you suffering now? (It can be pandemic related or not). How might your eyes be untrustworthy as you evaluate your position? What do you know from God's word that radically changes the perspective?

(For an example of how Paul exercised his faith as he considered the possibility of his own death, look at 2 Corinthians 5:1-2. See that Paul considered his current body a "tent" and that his coming resurrected body was his proper future "home". Dying, if it came to that, would remove the temporary form, and prepare him for his eternal one. That's faith!)

5. What was the most encouraging part of this message for you? What about the most challenging?