



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – October 31, 2023

The Lord be with you.

You know that Energizer Bunny we see on TV? The pink bunny pounding the drum, wearing sunglasses and flip-flops who just keeps going and going and going? Well, I've got a verse of scripture today in which the Apostle Paul tells how the Holy Spirit can keep you and me going even when things are going against us, how the Holy Spirit can keep us going and going and going. So I got good news again for you, as I'm looking at 2 Corinthians Chapter 4:16 where I read. "So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day." Now, in this chapter, 2 Corinthians 4, the Apostle Paul has already mentioned several things that might cause us to lose heart, that might discourage us, as he talks about how we are clay jars containing the treasure of the Gospel. Nothing fancy, just clay jars. And then Paul talks in versus 8 and following about being afflicted in every way, but not crushed, struck down, but not destroyed. So, there are a lot of things that are going against Paul and that could be going against us, but Paul says, We do not lose heart. Now Paul isn't bragging, he's making a simple statement of fact that in spite of the life's troubles, we that is this can be true of every believer, we do not lose heart.

Now, Paul tells us about a secret that he has discovered, whereby we do not lose heart now, throughout history, that there have been many tales about a legendary fountain of youth from which people supposedly drink and it restores their health and youth. Well, I look in Paul's statement here and see what we might call a fountain of youth. A fountain of spiritual youth, because Paul says that, even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. He says our outer nature is wasting away. Well, that includes what we see in the mirror, that we see is getting older, it is wasting away our bodies are in, they're suffering wear and tear, some of us now are more painfully aware of it than others.

Why... You know, the red on the page seems to be getting smaller and smaller for me, in my memory, that is still pretty good, it's not what a month was. And you know, I go to my high school reunion, and I think I'm in the wrong place because it's all old people. So, when Paul talks about the outer nature wasting away, he is including the body that is getting older. The mind that is getting older, the memory bank that is getting filled up overloaded. But Paul says, we do not lose heart. This does not discourage us. Why? Well, he explains our inner nature is being



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renewed day by day. So that's our inner self, our true self, the person that's being made new by Christ Jesus, he says it is being renewed every day.

Greek Scholars tell us that the Greek word Paul uses here that is translated renewed, it is found only in Paul's letters. This Greek word is not found in any other writer in the Bible, it's not found anywhere in Greek literature. And so, Greek scholars think that this is a word that Paul invents in order to describe the wonder of what God is doing deep inside of you and me every day. So, what Paul does is he puts together two Greek words, He makes a compound word *anakinoo*, and it means to make new all over again, to make new all over again by moving from one stage to a higher... More developed stage. Paul uses this word *anakinoo* in the present tense form of the verb, in order to signify that this being made new all over again, it is an ongoing process that we are in process day-by day of being spiritually renewed all over again.

So you see, we can't lose as we are being reinvigorated, renovated, strengthened in proportion as the outer person is wasting away. So here is ongoing spiritual renewal that is taking place deep inside of us that is matching step-by step, the process of the outer person wasting away. Now, Paul uses this Greek word in Romans chapter 12:2, when he speaks of the renewing all over again of our minds. He uses it in Titus chapter 3, verse 5, to say that this renewing is being done in us by the Holy Spirit. And then Paul uses this word in Colossians chapter three to say that we are being renewed according to the image of our Creator, that is day by day, the Holy Spirit is going about his work of making you and me more and more like Jesus. So of course, we don't lose heart because the Holy Spirit is making us more and more like Christ until it is complete at Christ coming. 1st John Chapter 3 says, when we see Jesus, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is. Here's how the message translation renders 2 Corinthians 4:16, I really like it. As it says, "so we're not giving up. How could we... Even though on the outside, it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside where God is making new life... Not a day goes by without his unfolding grace." As I think about this, so this is something that's better, far better than any fountain of youth, that in our troubles, in our afflictions, in our pains of getting older, God is getting us ready for glory.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.