

The Ministry: Its Sustaining and Enduring Spirit

2 Corinthians 04:07–18

1 *The presence of God sustains*

2 *The power of God sustains*

- a. Saves from distress
- b. Saves from despair
- c. Never forsakes
- d. Saves from destruction

3 *The spirit of dying daily sustains*

- a. He bears the dying of Christ
- b. That Christ may be seen in his body
- c. That others might receive life through his dying

4 *The spirit of faith sustains*

5 *The hope of being resurrected sustains*

6 *The need of others and the glory of God sustain*

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;

9 Persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.

12 So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak,

14 Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.

15 All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

7 *The inner man being renewed day by day sustains*

8 *The hope of eternal glory sustains*

- a. Because troubles are light when weighed against future glory
- b. Because our eyes are not focused on the physical and temporal, but on the spiritual and eternal

16 Therefore we do not lose heart.
Though outwardly we are wasting away,
yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.
For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.