

This chapter is a wonderful picture,

1. The whole **glory** of God in the face of Jesus Christ, *2 Corinthians 4:6 (NASB)* ⁶ *For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*
and
2. This glory is put into a **clay** vessel, *2 Corinthians 4:7 (NASB)* ⁷ *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;* and
3. If the vessel is not **absolutely dead**, **nothing**, the glory of Christ manifested in the vessel will be spoiled. *2 Corinthians 4:10 (NASB)* ¹⁰ *always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.*

And that is not all:

1. There is the positive power of God and **the vessel must be made nothing of**, so as not to spoil the treasure, **2 Corinthians 4:11** (NASB) *¹¹ For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, and*
2. Then, when that has been done, some other power must come in and act.*so that **the life of Jesus** also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*
3. It is a wonderful description of ministry in its scope and operation in creatures like us; and, looking death in the face, to continue on anyway.

11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

For the Lord Jesus to be fully expressed, it is going to involve a lifetime of the Holy Spirit's deep dealing with the more subtle and deadly characteristics of the self-life

A true believer, therefore, will ask no better thing of the Lord **than that the life also of Jesus may be made manifest in his body**

The Cross cost God all that He had, for us. That same Cross will cost us all that we are, for Him, for growth, and for others.

1. A living faith can rejoice in the Living God, even when feeling and experience appear to contradict the promise ([Rom. 8:28, 29](#)); and
2. The divine life only predominates as the life of the flesh is held in the place of death, inoperative ([Rom. 6:11a](#)).

11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

In Rom. 7:14 The reason why we had to **die to the law** was, not at all because the law was bad (it, on the contrary, is 'holy, just and good'), but because **we were bad**.

From this time, there is only this left for **us-to die to the law and be joined to the risen Lord Jesus** in a resurrection life absolutely beyond the sphere of the law." -W.R.N.

¹² So death works in us, but life in you.

Verse 12 is the conclusion of this part of the subject,

- The service of Christ in divine love and
- Self-denial which works death to the servant as surely as life to the saints he serves.
- This was true of The Lord Jesus in the fullest way; it is verified in those who follow Him in the labor of love, in so far as they are true to Him.

William Kelly

Before there can be **life** for others there must be **death** for us.

Before there can be the fire of God there must be an altar and a sacrifice; and it must be the burnt offering." -T. A-Sparks.

Preparation

"Saul armed David with his armor.... And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not tested them" ([1 Sam. 17:38, 39](#)).

Years of preparation are worth a moment of truth! Rest assured that once we are developed and trained by the Holy Spirit, the work whereunto He has called us will be ready and waiting ([Acts 13:2](#)).

"Our Lord must have an instrument which **He has formed in the fire** and to which **He has given peculiar knowledge of Himself.**"

"A servant's discipline must always be in advance of the service prepared for him. He cannot lead beyond the point to which he himself has been led..

J.B.Stoney

12 So death works in us, but life in you

What will be the result in glory?

- Not only was life in Christ given to those that believed, but
- It was fed, exercised, and developed by ministrations of truth,
- Grace was the spring and character and power, in presence of the deepest shame and pain and all calculated to dishearten,
- Yet ever rising above the obstacles and persevering, no matter what the weakness, not only in view of death,
but death working already in us.

¹³ *But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak,*

But having the same spirit of faith "It rebukes the haste and readiness with which many now enter the ministry, attempting to impress others with a measure of the truth which they **have not proved for themselves.**

Surely the servant should ever be able to say: *'I believed, and therefore have I spoken'*. It is better to lose time as to work in preparation for service than to lose time in repairing one's mistakes in undertaking a work for which one is not yet qualified." Kelly

This is **not** an authority for preaching, but it is **the going on in spite of the opposition of man, and it is an encouragement against the opposition of man.** Darby

¹⁴knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you

Why did Paul continue to serve God faithfully even though it meant suffering for him?

1. Paul believed, as the psalmist did, that inner conviction about the truth must result in outward confession of that truth (*1 Cor. 9:16*
¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.
2. When the apostle could serve God no longer due to death, God's power would raise him from the dead. The **resurrection** of Jesus guarantees the resurrection of believers in Jesus (*1 Cor. 15:23*
²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,