

# “What Did You Expect”

## Part 2

Last week we talked about how the Lord doesn't always provide the immediate relief we hoped for when we are going through fiery trials, so we asked the question: “So then what should we do and/or expect as we wait for His answer?” Let's see what Paul has to say about, that starting in 2 Cor, 1:8-11:

*“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”* (NIV)

Here's what he said in chapter 4:7-11: *“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”* We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body...” (NIV)

The last two verses of ch 4 (16-18) say: *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”* (NIV)

I believe the key takeaway is in ch. 1:10b-11a: *“On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers.”* When we pray, we have HOPE, and if we fix our eyes on Jesus and not our problem, we won't lose that hope. Isaiah 40:31: *“But those who wait on (or hope in-(NIV) the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”* (NKJV) Be still, wait, and don't lose hope! Amen!

Romans 4:18-22 New International Version<sup>18</sup> Against all hope,  
Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of  
many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall  
your offspring be.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>19</sup>