TLC message by René Schlaepfer, May 17 & 18, 2003



Part 1: Core Beliefs of Unstoppable People

The word for "confident" appears more in 2 Corinthians than in any other book of th Bible! It appears \_\_\_\_\_\_ times! The word "bold" is used \_\_\_\_\_\_ times!

Yet six times in this letter-- chapters 1, 4, 6, 7, 11, and 12-- Paul writes of his sufferings. It's his most autobiographical, intimate letter by far! For example:

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." 2 Cor. 4:8,9

## Four Core Beliefs of Unstoppable People

1.

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." 2 Cor. 1:21

"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ." 2Cor. 1:20

*"Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart." 2Cor. 4:1* 

#### 2.

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ..." 2Cor. 2:14

"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. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Cor. 4:17,18

#### 3.

*"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all..." 2 Cor. 5:14* 

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." 2 Cor. 5:20

4.

"Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God." 2 Cor. 3:4,5

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." 2 Cor. 4:7 (See 2 Cor. 12:9)

Key Concept: Learn self \_\_\_\_\_\_ without self \_\_\_\_\_\_

### Note how generous Paul is with his confidence...

"I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged." 2 Cor.  $7{:}4$ 

"I am glad I can have complete confidence in you." 2 Cor. 7:16

"...the Lord gave us authority for building you up rather than pulling you down..." 2 Cc 10:8

"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view... if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Cor. 5:16,17

# **Daily Meditations**

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse: "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." 2 Cor. 4:8,9

#### Monday

Which of the four core beliefs stood out to you last weekend? Why?

What situation in your life is causing you to lose confidence? Look back over the four core beliefs and write down how each one could help you in your life.

- 1.
- 2. 3.

4.

Thank God today that you do not have to live life on your own power. Ask Him to help you life out the five core beliefs you heard last weekend. Pray about the area(s) of your life where you feel like you are losing confidence.

#### Tuesday

Read 2 Cor. 1:20-21, 4:1. It always seems to come back to God's amazing grace! What do these verses teach you about God's grace?

Reread 2 Cor. 4:1. How does knowing that your life and ministry are through God's mercy help you not lose heart?

Think about the things in your life that are causing you to lose confidence. How does knowing you're secure in God's grace help you gain confidence?

Thank God today for His amazing grace. Thank Him that your life, ministry and confidence are secure because of His grace. Ask Him to help you live like a person who is secure in God's mercy and grace. Pray that your confidence in God will be contagious.

## Wednesday

Read 2 Cor. 2:14, 4:8-9 & 17-18. According to these verses why are you destined to win?

Reread 2 Cor. 4:8-9. How have you felt like this lately?

Now reread 2 Cor. 2:14. How does this verse hearten you? Picture in your mind's eye and write down what it would look like to be led in "triumphant procession" through your current struggles.

Reread 2 Cor. 4:17-18. I know your troubles don't always feel "light and momentary" but what truths do you see in these verses that give you a long-term perspective - that you are destined to win.

Thank God today that your future is secure in Christ. Talk to Him about your troubles. Ask Him to give you an eternal perspective. Pray that you'll live in confidence today knowing that you're destined to win.

## Thursday

Read 2 Cor. 5:14 & 20. Would you say that you generally live life with a sense of purpose? What is that purpose?

What is your life purpose according to 2 Cor. 5:20? How does that fit with your daily

life?

Reread 2 Cor. 5:14. What typically motivates you? According to this verse what is the motivation for your life mission?

How could knowing you have a mission from God motivated by Christ's love give you confidence?

Thank God today for including you in His plan and for giving you purpose. Thank Him for His love and pray that you'll be motivated by it. Talk to God about how you can be an ambassador for Him today. Pray that your life will be a light to those around you.

## Friday

Read 2 Cor. 3:4-5, 4:7 & 12:9. What is causing you to feel drained of power right now?

How have you seen God's power at work in your life in the past?

List three things the verses you read today tell you about God's power at work in you. 1.

2.

3.

How can this give you confidence in the troubles you are facing right now?

Thank God today for His amazing, unlimited power that is at work in you. Ask Him to help you appropriate that power in your life today. Pray that you'll live confident in God and that you'll live with purpose.

## Saturday

Read 2 Cor. 5:16-17; 7:4, 16 & 10:8. What is Paul's attitude toward the Corinthians? Write down the names of three people who need you to share the confidence you have gained in Christ with them. How will you do that? Please pray for the services this weekend. Thanks!! Thank God today that in Him you can live confidently.