

## Hope Rising...

### Out of the Depths of Despair

May 5, 2019 / Jeff Gunn

What we face: Increasing indicators of \_\_\_\_\_ in our culture. Despair - The complete loss or absence of \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. **2 Corinthians 1:8-9a, NIV**

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. **2 Corinthians 4:7-12, NIV**

Hope can easily be shaken. Life deals out \_\_\_\_\_. Christians get \_\_\_\_\_ too. And all humans—made of clay—are \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>13</sup> It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, <sup>14</sup> 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 to himself. <sup>15</sup> 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. **2 Corinthians 4:13-15, NIV**

Faith \_\_\_\_\_ me. Grace moves me to \_\_\_\_\_.  
The more \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ I become, the more I am able to live within my \_\_\_\_\_ to bring \_\_\_\_\_ to God!

<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **2 Corinthians 4:16-17, NIV**

This is simple but never easy. That's because there are two \_\_\_\_\_ for every Christian. \_\_\_\_\_, we may fall apart. But \_\_\_\_\_, his grace unfolds every day.

<sup>18</sup> 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. **2 Corinthians 4:18, NIV**

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. **Hebrews 12:1b-2a, NIV**

But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. **2 Corinthians 1:9b, NIV**

We cannot always change our \_\_\_\_\_ nor are we always in control of our \_\_\_\_\_. I am \_\_\_\_\_, but Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_. Hope rises on \_\_\_\_\_ shoulders, not mine.

#### MEMORY VERSE

But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. **2 Corinthians 1:9b, NIV**

**My next step:** I will battle any emotions of despair by fixing my eyes on Jesus. He rose, and with him my hopes rise too.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.