

打倒了，卻不至死亡

CAST DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED

哥林多後書有人說是保羅的自傳，因為在此書中祂特別說到自己的遭遇和經歷。在第一章他就說到，「弟兄們，我們不要你們不曉得，我們從前在亞細亞遭遇苦難，被壓太重，力不能勝，甚至連活命的指望都絕了；自己心裏也斷定是必死的，叫我們不靠自己，只靠叫死人復活的神。」他曾被猶太人鞭打，被棍打了三次；被石頭打了一次，遇着船壞三次，又遇見各種各樣的危險。在第十一章他說到身體所忍受的情形，「受勞碌、受困苦，多次不得睡，又飢又渴，多次不得食，受寒冷，赤身露體。」但是到了最後在第十三章保羅說，「我卻盼望你們曉得，我們不是可棄絕的人。」他經過了所有的考驗卻沒有失敗放棄。

今天有許多神的兒女遇見了一些難處很容易就放棄了。有人在婚姻中發現彼此相處有難處，他們沒有面對解決這個問題，而是選擇放棄這個婚姻；有人在服事中遇見了攔阻，他們沒有克服這個攔阻，而是放棄了服事；也有人在教會中遇見不合心意的事，或是被別人指正，他們沒有尋求神的光照，而是放棄再去教會。仇敵是永遠不放棄尋找機會要將我們擊倒，牠利用每一個我們所遇見的人、事、物，讓我們覺得路走不下去，只有放棄才是唯一的路。一旦我們選擇了放棄的路，我們也就失去了所有的蒙神祝福的機會。

保羅在哥林多後書第四章第七至第九節說，「我們有這寶貝放在瓦器裏，要顯明這莫大的能力是出於神，不是出

II Corinthians can be regarded as Apostle Paul's autobiography. In that book, he described his encountering and experiences. In its first chapter, he mentioned: "For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead." He was whipped by Jews, bitten by rod three times, stoned once, encountered shipwreck three times, and experienced many other kinds of dangers. In Chapter 11, he talked about physical sufferings: "I have been in labor, and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure." However, in the last chapter, Paul said: "But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test." He went through many trials, but he did not fail nor give up.

Today many children of God encountered difficulties and gave up easily. Some may encounter difficulties in marital relationship, yet instead of facing and solving the problems, they just give up. Some may encounter hardship in serving the Lord, instead of overcoming the difficulty, they would choose to give up. Some meet with criticisms in the church, instead of seeking God's enlightening, they would quit going to church. Enemies seek every opportunity to beat us down. Whenever we choose to give up, at the same time we have chose to forfeit opportunities to receive God's blessings.

Paul encouraged us in II Corinthians (Chapter 4 verses 7 to 9) by saying: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of

於我們。我們四面受敵，卻不被困住；心裏作難，卻不至失望；遭逼迫，卻不被丟棄；打倒了，卻不至死亡。」這是保羅一直不放棄，跟隨主直到路終的秘訣。保羅並不是天生就比別人剛強、比別人能忍受，乃是因有寶貝在他裏面。當這寶貝從瓦器裏面顯出來時，這裏有一個人，他在那裏怕，但是他又在那裏剛強，他什麼時候軟弱，什麼時候就剛強，軟弱的是瓦器，使他剛強的是寶貝。他似乎受責罰，卻是不至喪命的；他以乎憂愁，卻是常快樂的；他似乎貧窮，卻是叫許多人富足的，這都因有寶貝在瓦器裏。

當我們重生得救時，神就將寶貝放在我們這瓦器裏。神兒子的生命不是放棄的生命，這生命遠遠大過我們的軟弱和失敗。我們「四面受敵，卻不被困住」，四面都是難處，但是神必定為我們開一條出路；「心裏作難，卻不至失望」，似乎看不見問題有解決的辦法，也看不見前面的方向，但是神必定會幫助我們；「遭逼迫，卻不被丟棄」，或許我們在逼迫中感覺不到神在哪裡，但神永不會丟棄我們，祂必與我們同在；「打倒了，卻不至死亡」，我們可能被擊倒，但永不會出局，雖然被打倒，卻能夠起來繼續往前。

摘自梁弟兄主日信息

God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.” This was Paul’s secret of following the Lord all the way to the end. Paul was not born to be stronger, or more tolerant than others. His secret was that he had treasure in his vessel. Whenever this treasure was revealed, he would be strong, even though he seemed to be weak at the same time. The vessel was weak, but the treasure made it strong. He was persecuted, but did not lose his life. He seemed to be worrisome, but he was often joyful. He seemed to be poor, but he enriched many others’ lives. It was all because there was treasure in him.

God put His treasure inside of us the minute we were saved. The life of the son of God was not a life that gives up. His life far exceeds our weaknesses and failure. We can be “afflicted in every way, but not crushed.” Although afflictions surround us, God must open a way for us. We may be “perplexed, but not despairing”. Sometimes we feel lack of a clear direction, but God will surely help us. Sometimes we are “persecuted, but not forsaken.” Maybe we could not feel Him in the midst of persecution, but God will never forsake us. He promised to be with us all the time. We can be struck down, but never destroyed. We can be struck down, but we will always get up and go forward.

Sunday Message of brother Liang