

GLORY IN THE

POWER + GOSPEL

IN WEAKNESS

2 CORINTHIANS



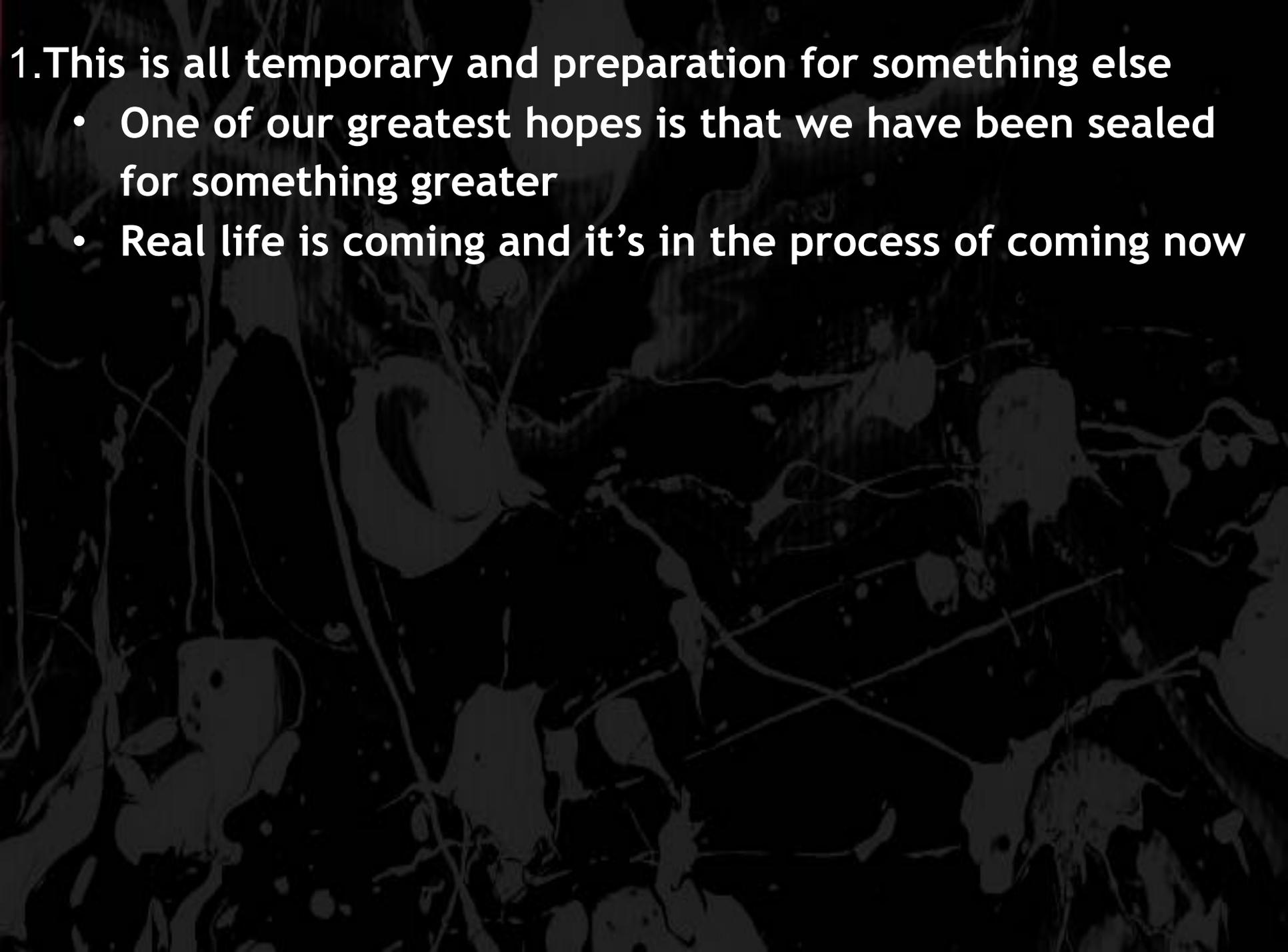
THE SANCTUARY
FELLOWSHIP

Three themes have emerged from 2 Corinthians:

1. God's power is displayed in our weakness
 2. God's comfort is generously given as we suffer
 3. God gives us a supernaturally effective ministry as we suffer
- God calls us to be on His rescue mission with Him as we suffer
 - What do we learn about how God is using our suffering in supernatural ways?

2 Corinthians 5:1-5

“For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, 3 inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. 4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.”

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- 1. This is all temporary and preparation for something else**
- One of our greatest hopes is that we have been sealed for something greater
 - Real life is coming and it's in the process of coming now

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

“6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight— 8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. 9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

2. We must live like a real judgment is actually coming

- Salvation is by faith, rewards are by faith
- The evidence of our invisible faith is a transformed life
- Our works don't save us, but they are evidence of our salvation
- God is using how we respond to suffering to “prove” our salvation
- They are exhibit C in God's courtroom!

2 Corinthians 5:11-15

“11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences. 12 We are not again commending ourselves to you but are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have an answer for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. 14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”

3. In light of all of this, we are to “persuade men” like we’re out of our minds, controlled by Christ’s love

- What are you under the control of?**
- Are you persuading men, out of your mind, controlled by love?**
- Christ’s love is your primary motivation in all relationships - what does it look like?**
- Have you gotten over the cross?**
- We are conduits for God’s love to others**
- We stop living for ourselves**
- Verse 21 is an example of God’s amazingly generous love to us**
- It’s an encouragement for us to give ourselves away to extreme measures!**

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

“16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

4. Our new hearts are big enough to receive God's love and give it to others

- We have to preach the Gospel to ourselves**
- Paul sees this as a complete reinvention of who we are-completely new**
- God has provided and is giving us everything we need for living a holy life**

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

“18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

- **This is God's mission to the world - a rescue mission!**
 1. **God, I can't get over the gospel for me**
 2. **God, I will live for you**
 3. **God, I will be on your mission of reconciliation**
 4. **God, I will be your conduit of loving others**
 5. **I will live to influence others to live for Christ**

Who needs you to come alongside them to persuade them to live for Christ?

- We are radically reborn and God is using everything in our lives by His power and grace to make us new
- Where are we headed?
 - TBD!

Who will we become?

- A church on God's rescue mission
- A church persuading others to know God
- A church encouraging each other to be controlled by Christ
- A church that lives in fear and love of God in order to please God