

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 31. Spirit of faith



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18

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. For what can be seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Luke 11:1-13, John 14:15-21

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

Paul writes to the church in Corinth, encouraging them to grow in faith. The church at Corinth had all sorts of problems. Paul was helping them. Paul knew about troubles and imprisonment from his own experience. Earlier in this chapter, he writes about being hard pressed on every side but not crushed. Paul reassures us that the Holy Spirit helps us to grow inwardly and encourages us to look to God.

Jonathan Aitken, one of Prison Fellowship's patrons and now a prison chaplain, writes about how his faith was tested and grew during the time he served in prison. His growth in faith occurred because God blessed him with spiritual resources far greater than he expected. One of the things that he found really helpful was to keep a diary of his prayers which he could look back on. This helped him not to lose heart when he found things tough.

The prayer diary helped him in four ways:

1. Many of Jonathan's prayers were answered in the way requested.
2. Many of the prayers were answered in different ways and at a different time.
3. There were times that he learnt to surrender to God's will and wait.
4. It helped him to realise that all these prayer experiences had given him the gift of a far stronger faith.

(Jonathan Aitken; Prayers for People under Pressure)

### Reflections:

1. Who has helped you to grow in faith? Give thanks for them.
2. Perhaps you have written prayers on the back of these Bible sheets over the last six months. If so, take some time to look at them. Which ones have been answered as requested, which ones in a different way and where have you had to surrender to God and wait?
3. If you are feeling hard pressed, why not ask God for help in your prayers this week?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



**SPIRIT**  
**OF**  
**FAITH**

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



What have you seen God do in response to your prayers this week?

