

“Living in Response to the Resurrection”
2 Corinthians 4:7-5:4

I. We live victorious over struggles (vs. 4:7-12).

(Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Hebrews 13:5-6)

II. We live in complete trust of God (vs. 13-15).

(Hebrews 11:1-6)

III. We live with a changed focus (16-18).

(Hebrews 11:8-16)

IV. We live in anticipation of the fullness of life (5:1-4).

(Romans 8:16-18; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

Scripture References and Notes

we are afflicted [θλίβω (thlibó)]

- to press, afflict
- I make narrow (strictly: by pressure); I press upon, (b) I persecute, press hard.
- (the root of *thlipsis*, reflecting an original "b"/*bēta*) – properly, rub together, constrict (compress), i.e. *pressed* together; (figuratively) *oppressively* afflict (distress), i.e. like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place.
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/2346.htm>

crushed [στενοχωρέω (stenochóreó)]

- to be made narrow, to compress
- (I keep some one in a tight place), I press upon, cramp, restrain.

- (from *stenós*, "narrow" and *xōros*, "an area, space") – properly, to restrict, keep in a closed space; *hem in*, severely cramp; (figuratively) *holding back affection* for someone, like when refusing to *respond* positively because of a *closed heart* (cf. *L & N*, 1, 25.54). In 2 Cor 4:8, Paul states God's grace kept him in difficult circumstances from feeling such.
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/4729.htm>

perplexed [ἀπορέω (aporeó)]

- to be at a loss, be perplexed
- I am at a loss, am perplexed; mid: I am in doubt.
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/639.htm>

despairing [ἐξαπορέομαι (exaporeó)]

- to be utterly at a loss, be in despair
- I am utterly without resource, am in despair.
- (from *ek*, "out of" intensifying *aporéō*, "without exit, passageway") – properly, without passage (no way out); (figuratively) to lack adequate resources (solutions), leaving someone in "utter (complete) despair" (*L & N*, 1, 25.237).
- ("completely disoriented") emphasizes the *end-impact* of having no *solution* (no way out) – i.e. leaving a person "totally at a loss."
- means "incurring dishonor or shame *in the eyes of men*. . . . Hence it does not spring out of a reverence for right in itself, but from fear of the knowledge and opinion of men" (*WS*, 175).
- In sum, *eksaporeómai* relates to someone (apparently) "left in the straits" (with no way out) – i.e. in "extreme exposure," without a good alternative ("no exit strategy").
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/1820.htm>

persecuted [διώκω (diókó)]

- to put to flight, pursue, by implication to persecute
- I pursue, hence: I persecute.
- properly, *aggressively* chase, like a *hunter* pursuing a catch (prize).
- *diókō* is used *positively* ("earnestly pursue") and *negatively* ("zealously persecute, hunt down"). In each case, *diókō* means *pursue with all haste* ("chasing" after), *earnestly* desiring to overtake (apprehend).
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/1377.htm>

forsaken[ἐγκαταλείπω (egkataleipó)]

- to leave behind, (in a good sense) let remain over or (in a bad sense) desert
- I leave in the lurch, abandon (one who is in straits), desert.
- (from *en*, "in"; *katá*, "down"; and *leípō*, "to leave") – properly, left in a condition of lack ("without"); hence, to feel forsaken (helpless), like left in dire circumstances.
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/1459.htm>

Deuteronomy 31:6, 8

⁶ Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

⁸ And the LORD, He *is* the one who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

Hebrews 13:5-6

⁵ Let your conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶ So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

struck down [καταβάλλω (kataballó)]

- to cast down
- mid: I lay, of a foundation, (b) met: I cast down, prostrate.
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/2598.htm>

destroyed [ἀπόλλυμι (apollumi)]

- to destroy, destroy utterly
- I kill, destroy, (b) I lose, mid: I am perishing (the resultant death being viewed as certain).
- (from *apó*, "away from," which intensifies *ollymi*, "to destroy") – properly, *fully* destroy, cutting *off entirely* (note the force of the prefix, *apó*).
- *apóllymi* ("violently/completely perish") implies *permanent* (absolute) destruction, i.e. to cancel out (remove); "to die, with the implication of ruin and *destruction*" (*L & N*, 1, 23.106); cause to be *lost* (*utterly* perish) by experiencing a miserable end.
- <https://biblehub.com/greek/622.htm>

Hebrews 11:1-6

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "*and was not found, because God had taken him*"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 11:8-16

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born *as many* as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Romans 8:16-18

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together. ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

*You may access the sermon outline on the church website at <https://www.firstbaptistcp.com/sermon-archive/>.

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