



Synergy Study 2025 / #1

Discouraged and Disheartened

Do the study on the next two pages: When completed come back here and write some takeaways.

- What did you hear God saying to you?
- What particular part of the passage spoke loudest to you?
- What part made you feel uncomfortable?
- What part did you not understand?
- What will you consider changing about your attitude or your lifestyle?
- What could you encourage someone else with from this passage?



But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Determine four reasons we should not lose heart.
Each paragraph gives one particular idea. To help do this determine a subject and a complement for each paragraph. In other words (1) what does the passage talk about and (2) what does it say about the subject.

2 Corinthians 4:1–18 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, **we do not lose heart**. ² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Subject:

Complement:

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Subject:

Complement:

¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Subject:

Complement:

¹⁶ So **we do not lose heart**. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Subject:

Complement:

Chart out the contrasts given in verses 8-12. There are seven of them in total. After doing this try to look up Greek words and their meanings for the key words, especially for the first four.

1	8a	8a
2	8b	8b
3	9a	9a
4	9b	9b
5	10a	10b
6	11a	11b
7	12a	12b

Cross References

*Passages to Consider When Discouraged
That compliment 2 Corinthians 4:1-16*

Psalm 34:17-18 / When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Isaiah 41:10 / fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Phil 4:6-7 / do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Josh 1:9 / Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Psalm 23:4 / Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Romans 8:28 / And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Psalm 42:11 / Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Deuteronomy 31:8 / It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

Matthew 11:28-30 / Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

John 16:33 / I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Psalm 55:22 / Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Isaiah 40:31 / but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm 46:1-3 / God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah