

SEEING THE UNSEEN

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,
since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

What is *seen* for the aging *senior* are the many **losses** we're enduring with aging here on earth – *outwardly we are wasting away...*

- We notice our bodies ache. They age. They atrophy...
- We can't hear as clearly, especially if there is background noise in the room.
- We can't read for very long and the print seems so small in the newspaper and in books.
- We can't remember as well so we compensate with post-it notes and alarms on our phones as reminders.
- We can't walk as fast and trying to keep up makes us feel guilty for slowing others down.
- We can hardly read our own writing anymore.
- We don't enjoy food like we used to because our taste buds are weakening.
- We wear pads and pull-ups because we can't get to the toilet in time. Embarrassment leads to staying home.
- We can't change the sheets as easily and the bed is getting more difficult to make.
- We worry if our finances are going to hold out.
- We dread vacuuming the floors for fear of hurting our back or falling and breaking a hip.
- We seldom answer the phone or the door unless we're expecting someone, or the caller ID identifies a familiar name – because of all the shysters and scammers.
- We're not driving anymore, either on our own accord or because we were strongly encouraged not to.
- We can't go out in the yard without assistance because the family fears we will fall.

What is *unseen* are the many **gains** that Christ-followers receive in Heaven, our *eternal glory*. They include:

- God wiping away our tears, no death, no sorrow, no crying, no pain *because the former things are passed away!* Revelation 21:4 So we won't have to worry about falling and breaking a hip because there is no pain in Heaven!
- We are going to have NEW resurrected spiritual BODIES! (1 Corinthians 15:35-58)
- I don't know if there will be doors to open, but after Jesus was resurrected, He just "showed up" in the room where His disciples were hiding out and didn't enter through a door! John 20:19-20
- So, if Jesus just "showed up" in His resurrected body, I wonder if we can just THINK where we want to go in Heaven and arrive there, also...and we won't need our car Heaven, anyway!
- Jesus also ate TWICE in His resurrected body, once in the upper room (Luke 24:41-42) and once when He fixed breakfast for the disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (John 21:12-13). I think there'll be food in Heaven for fellowship (Koinonia) purposes, not to sustain life but for enjoyment! Plus there is the tree of life with its ripe fruit according to each month of the year! (Revelation 22:2)
- We are going to RECOGNIZE people in Heaven just as Peter, James, & John recognized Elijah & Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration when they were talking with Jesus. They lived hundreds of years earlier and hadn't seen any photographs of them! Matthew 17:1-8
- We won't have to vacuum the floors in Heaven. They're made of gold! Revelation 21:21
- I don't think we'll be sleeping on clouds, but I don't think we'll be changing our sheets anymore either! There's no nighttime in Heaven because Heaven is lit up with the radiance of God's glory! Rev. 22:5

Inwardly we are being renewed day by day as we read these things in God's Word and let them nourish our souls! We are renewed day by day as we worship our Lord corporately and privately in our homes. Christian radio is a good source of daily renewal, too. And just like you drop everything to talk to one of your kids when they stop by or call, our God is elated when we drop in throughout our day to talk to Him! You know, if God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If He had a wallet, your picture would be in it. Each time you open that refrigerator and get out your wallet, remember that and take a moment and talk to Him! He longs to hear from His children!

Remember Paul who wrote this passage in 2 Corinthians along with 12 other letters/books of the New Testament. He had physically suffered beyond our wildest imagination, yet he did so with an unshakeable joy and peace because of his confident expectation of the *unseen* eternal life that was to come with Christ.

(Rope illustration where 5" represent life on earth, 1" for every 20 years, and the rest of the rope that goes on and on and on, is eternity. Repeat 2 Corinthians 4:18 ...*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, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*)

Prayer:

Lord, we enthusiastically come to Your throne room of prayer today, thanking You for giving us a glimpse of Heaven in Your Word and reminding us of our citizenship there as Christ-followers. Father, if there are some today that don't have that assurance of being a Christ-follower, may they talk to their pastor today and make that most important life decision that affects their eternal destiny.

Lord, *in this temporary body, we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling!* (2 Corinthians 5:2) But as Christ-followers, You have work for us to do here on earth, Lord. I've heard it said, "If we're not dead, we're not done." Use us up, Lord, for Your glory, *for we know that nothing we do for the Lord is ever useless.* 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Our hope is in You, Lord. With the gift of Your Holy Spirit we courageously live by faith, not by sight; we *fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen* remembering that *what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.* (2 Corinthians 4:18)

We choose to live with a joyful confidence like Paul did, Lord, until You call us to Your glorious presence and our eternal – forever home with You. In the precious name of Jesus I pray, AMEN.

The Blessing of Romans 15:13

*May the God of HOPE fill you with all JOY and PEACE
as you TRUST in HIM,
so that you OVERFLOW with HOPE by the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT.*

Romans 15:13