



Growing Faith

13 - Autumn | 21 October 2022

A thought for this Half Term

Written by Bel Becker, from the Pais Movement,

The other day I went to a youth leaders gathering and the verse that we contemplated was 2 Corinthians 4:7-9, it says:

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”

(NIV)

This passage talks about the real physical and emotional sufferings that the apostles were passing through and that despite it all, they persevered and kept their courage to continue their ministry, knowing that God had entrusted them the message of the gospel and He had a purpose for which one of them. One of the beauties of the Bible is that it's a timeless book: everything written in there can be applied to our day-to-day life, even the things that may seem too specific to that period of time or it can seem not that clear, there's always something (a principle, a teaching, a practice) that can be taken for us to exercise in our lives.

With this passage we can think about the “not so glorious” or even hard parts of the Christian life. Sometimes we have the wrong assumption that our life is going to be easier because we decided to live with and for God, but most of the time it's not the case, since Jesus himself had said that we still were going to have troubles (John 16:33). What changes is how we face the challenges and issues that come across us. Through Jesus' sacrifice it was possible for the Age of Grace to begin for all, where salvation, even though it was not deserved, was still conceived through faith in Christ; but the same Grace from God that made it possible for us to be saved also came to capacitate us, to empower us to win against sin and to strengthen us to pass through every single trouble in our lives with the promise that He will always be with us (Joshua 1:9).

When the apostle Paul wrote this letter he was encouraging the church, using the analogy of the jars of clay to say that even though we may feel we're not special enough or strong enough or that the sufferings may seem too much for us to handle, the God that lives in us is greater and more powerful than the storms we pass through and the limits we have. He's in control and an amazing part of His Grace and love is that He chooses to use us, flawed and fragile humans, to be part of His Kingdom and glory.

So, I just hope that today this could serve as an encouragement for whoever is reading this, for us to remember that God sees us in all of our troubles, He comforts us and empowers us to win every battle. Please give Him a chance to talk to you too and to be part of your life, it makes the whole difference. God bless.

Song for the Reflection



Sing along or sit and reflect as we worship together with 'Joy of The Lord' by Rend Collect

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

A Prayer

Written by Jonty Wood,
Sixth Form Worship Coordinator:

Father God,

We ask you to give us wisdom and guidance in all our studies. Help us to make decisions that align with your word and bring glory to your name. Give us clarity so we don't fall into the traps of peer pressure. Give us insight on how to manage the crucial aspects of our school life, and teach us to listen to our teachers and peers in they advice they may give. Help reassure us through the difficult times we may go through in school.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen

School Song

Sing along to 'Blessed Be Your Name'
as we worship together.



Church Support

Church Services

Please visit these church websites to see when their services are taking place:

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship: [Website](#)

St John's and St Augustine's Church, Huncoat: [YouTube channel](#)

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Rishton: [Facebook Page](#)

St. John's Church, Baxenden: [Website](#)

Peel Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)

All Saints Church, Clayton-le-Moors: [Facebook Page](#)

My Best Advice for Being a Teenager

By Ben Sansom, Sixth Form Worship Coordinator:

Get Outside

It is good for the body
It is good for the mind
It is good for the soul

Some of my best memories come from the great outdoors, walking up mountains to cooking on a campfire.

Its when I'm in the wildest places, away from all the creature consorts of the modern world that I feel closest to God. I thnk the best way to grasp the awesome scale and power of God is to explore and be a part of his creation.


So, in conclusion, get out and have an adventure, it is good for the soul.

And you might just find God along the way.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9



 **Queens Road West
Accrington
Lancashire
BB5 4AY**

 **01254 232 992**
 **c.pountain@st-christophers.org**

 **www.st-christophers.org**

