

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

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"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"LIGHT AFFLICTION BUT FOR A MOMENT"

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." 2 Corinthians 4: 17

God will make us laugh. Sarah said, ***"God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."*** (Genesis 21:6) Sarah simply could not believe that she could and would have a child at ninety years of age. Impossible, she may have thought; but she forgot that God specializes in things thought impossible; and God can do what no other power can do. Yes, I am so glad that the Lord has given us the gift of laughter. We may laugh from something funny we see or hear on the television, radio, or the internet. It may be something someone says or does in person. It may be through a sermon we hear. I am thankful that God has given our pastor such a wonderful sense of humor. He makes me laugh often, both at home and at church as he delivers inspiring and uplifting sermons. Yes, even amid challenging and stressful times, God can bring a smile to our faces through His Word. Sometimes, I am caught by surprise and it is peculiar to me how scriptures can strike me at the core of my being and change my disposition from sadness to joy. This verse is an example of what I mean. The NIV translation of 2 Corinthians 4:17 reads this way: ***"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."*** In other words, trouble doesn't last always. Eternity will.

The Holy Spirit spoke to me during a very difficult time in my life and used this scripture to soothe me. My mother is in heaven now but, at the time, she was seriously ill, and I was really feeling down and out. However, I was reading my Bible as I sat by her bedside. As I read and meditated on God's Word, the Lord reminded me that I was experiencing a light affliction. I was somewhat taken aback! What, I thought. Surely, this serious medical condition my mother faced could not be considered light. But, in terms of eternity, it certainly was. The realization hit me like a ton of bricks and struck me as ironic which is why I began to smile. I was not smiling because of the situation, but smiling because I was assured that God had the situation in His eternal plan and purpose. Wow! Two great gifts in one verse – that whatever we're dealing with, in God's eyes, (1) these things are light and (2) they are but for a moment. Yes, I smiled then and I still smile now when, time and time again, I read this beautiful verse. I hope you are feeling blessed today and enjoy a little laughter.

Dear LORD,

Thank you for the joy and laughter you give us. We are so grateful that you never give us more than we can bear. Thank you for our Eternal home. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

How will you respond to today's message?
