

Hope in Middle Years

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 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.”

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

We do not lose heart because God's grace has carried us here, and His grace will lead us home.

1) Do not lose heart - He brought you here.

“Though Paul was outwardly wasting away, he did not lose heart, because inwardly he was being renewed day by day. And in any case, the outward troubles were but slight and momentary compared with the weight of eternal character of the glory he was to experience as a result. Paul endured afflictions in the present visible world by keeping before him the glories of the yet unseen world.”

New Bible Commentary

“The sinless beauty of the inner person will overflow into the beauty of the outer person. We'll feel neither insecurity nor arrogance. We won't attempt to hide or impress. We won't have to try to look beautiful, we will be beautiful.”

Heaven by Randy Alcorn

“When you dig away the earth from the root of a tree, it is to loosen the tree from the earth; so God digs away our earthly comforts to loosen our hearts from the earth.”

All Things for Good by Thomas Watson

2) Do not lose heart - He's not done with you yet.

"The only way you can make sense out of life is to look at it from the vantage point of eternity. Eternity defines, motivates and clarifies the life that God has called us to."

Lost in the Middle by Paul Tripp

3) Do not lose heart - You're being conformed into His image.

"Wisdom is the insight and sense of how to live in a way that accomplishes the goals for which we were made: the glory of God, and the good of man."

When I Don't Desire God by John Piper