



## Hope in the Dark // Vijay Krishnan // March 10th, 2024

Inevitably, life presents us with pain and suffering. Yet, the hope found in Jesus serves as a steadfast reminder that goodness persists even in the midst of our trials. By directing our focus toward the profound significance of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can mold our perspective amidst adversity. His resurrection embodies transformative power, showcasing triumph over evil and the transformation of shame into glory. It is crucial to anchor our thoughts on the enduring nature of God's love and the assurance that death does not have the final say.

**Scripture:** [2 Corinthians 11:23-27 NLT](#); [2 Corinthians 4:8-10, 16-18 NLT](#)

**Bottom Line:** We need to fix our eyes on the fact that love is forever, and death is not.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever gone through a season of pain and suffering, and experienced other resulting emotions like bitterness, cynicism, numbness, or despair? How do you believe one can overcome these emotions amidst pain and suffering?
2. What does the word "hope" mean to you? Have you ever considered the definition of Christian hope as "the certainty from God that, in the end, your story is good"? How does this resonate with you?
3. Read [2 Corinthians 11:23-27](#), [4:8-10](#), and [4:16-18](#). What do you make of the apostle Paul's list of hardships? How does his personal experience strengthen his encouragement to us that "we get knocked down, but we are not destroyed" and "we never give up"?
4. How can we adopt a similar perspective to Paul in our own lives as we face trials of all kinds? What reality does he point to as the key to enduring hope?
5. How does the concept that "love is forever and death is not" impact your sense of the enduring nature of hope, especially in the face of difficulties?
6. When contemplating the death and resurrection of Jesus, what aspects do you find most significant in providing hope and strength during a difficult time?

7. As you consider your current situation, what specific outcome of Jesus' resurrection do you need to fix your gaze on as the source of your hope?
  - a. Waiting for total healing of the body
  - b. Believing that Jesus will bring ultimate victory over evil
  - c. Remembering that your shame can be turned into glory
  - d. Anticipating that Jesus will reconcile all relationships

**Moving Forward:**

This week, reflect deeply on Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 and find hope in Jesus' death and resurrection: *For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever. So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.* Love is forever, and death is not!