

## The Miracle of Mercy – Part 2 GOD CAN USE ANYBODY!

“. . . Give yourselves completely to God – every part of you – because you’ve been brought from death to life, and now you want to be used by God for good, and for his righteous purposes.” Romans 6:13

### PAUL’S SECRETS OF STAYING USABLE 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-18

#### 1. Never forget it’s all because of God’s mercy

“God IN HIS MERCY has given us this ministry and work to do. That’s why we do not become discouraged and never give up!”

2 Cor. 4:1 (GN)

“You know what I was like . . . how I violently persecuted Christians. I did my best to get rid of them! . . . But then something happened! For it pleased God in his kindness to choose me and call me, even before I was born! What UNDESERVED MERCY!” Gal. 1:13+15 (NLT)

Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future!

#### 2. Be real

“We don’t try to trick anyone, and we don’t twist the word of God. Instead we teach the truth plainly, showing everyone WHO WE REALLY ARE. Then they can know in their hearts what kind of people we are in God’s sight.” 2 Cor. 4:2 (NLT/NCV)

#### 3. Remember, it’s not about me

“Our message is not about ourselves. It is about Jesus Christ as the Lord. We are merely your servants for Jesus’ sake.”

2 Cor. 4:5 (GW)

#### 4. Use my pain to help others

“We often suffer, but we are never crushed. Even when we don’t know what to do, we never give up. In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again.”

2 Cor. 4:8-9 (CEV)

“All of these sufferings of ours are for your benefit. And the more of you who are won to Christ, the more there are to thank Him for his great mercy, and the more God gets glory!” 2 Cor. 4:15 (LB)

#### 5. Stay focused on eternity

“These little troubles are getting us ready for an eternal glory that will make all our troubles seem like nothing.” 2 Cor. 4:17 (CEV)

“So we don’t look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.”

2 Cor. 4:18 (NLT)

#### A Key to Staying Focused: Support – e.g. – Small Groups

“A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. And three people are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)