

Text: **2 Corinthians 4:1-6**

Title: **"AS WE HAVE RECEIVED MERCY, WE DO NOT LOSE HEART"**

(I) THE SAME SPIRIT OF FAITH EXPRESSED IN NOT LOSING HEART

- 1. Joseph did not lose heart even though he suffered much**
- 2. Moses did not lose heart even though he had a difficult ministry leading the children of Israel to Canaan**
- 3. Joshua did not lose heart as he led the conquest of Canaan**

(II) ALL TOO EASY TO LOSE HEART

- 1. Because of tribulation (2 Corinthians 1)**
- 2. Because of burdens that seem too much to bear (2 Corinthians 1)**
- 3. Because of limited human strength (2 Corinthians 1)**
- 4. Because of Satanic opposition (2 Corinthians 2:11)**

(III) HOW MAY WE NEVER LOSE HEART IN LIFE AND MINISTRY?

- 1. Because we have "this ministry" (2 Corinthians 4:1)**
 - a) A glorious ministry
 - b) An excellent ministry
 - c) A ministry of righteousness
 - d) A ministry of the Holy Spirit (**2 Corinthians 3:6-12**)
- 2. Because we have received the mercy of God (2 Corinthians 4:1)**
 - a) The mercy of God (**Psalm 103:8-12**)
 - b) The mercy of God
 - i) Uplifting
 - ii) Strengthening

3. Because of a clear understanding and practice of ministry

- a) There is rejection of all worldly approaches (**2 Corinthians 4:2**)
- b) There is firm conviction to preach the word of truth (**2 Corinthians 4:2**)
- c) There is recognition and understanding that there will be some who will reject the gospel message (**2 Corinthians 4:3-4**)
- d) There is understanding that Satan has blinded some to the truth of the Gospel