

June 6, 2021

Texts: Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Title: “We Wobble, But We Don’t Fall Down”

What’s your favorite toy of all time? Every Christmas, toy companies push out their latest and greatest toy, but much of their popularity is short-lived. They sell well one year, then disappear the next. But a few toys stay popular for years, even decades.

For instance, there is the Radio Flyer wagon that was introduced in the 20’s , the 1920s. The Etch-A-Sketch and the Slip-N-Slide came out in the 60’s. And then there are Nerf Balls, the Weebles, Paddington Bear, Cabbage Patch Kids, and the Super Soaker water gun just to name a few of those toys that continue to be popular even today.

I’ll bet the inventor of the Weebles never expected his little egg-shaped dolls would be as popular as they are. One reason they sold so well was their song from the ad, “Weebles wobble, but they won’t fall down!” Many of you will remember that. “You could hit them, punch them, slam them down on the ground, but no matter what you did, a Weeble always bounced back up.

If only you and I were more like those Weebles that wobble but they won’t fall down! I thought of them in reading our passage from 2 Corinthians because its like that. Paul is sharing his secret of strength and resilience and even joy in the face of discouragements and troubles.

He’s saying this: don’t allow discouragement to have its way with you. “So we don’t lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner

nature is being renewed every day,” he says. By the “outer nature wasting away,” he talking about the physical decline of getting older.

Paul had an amazing amount of hardships and they were mostly after he became a follower of Jesus. It’s easy for one to get discouraged when it seems that you have one hardship after another. But Paul is saying, “Don’t lose heart.” In other words, don’t give up! Give God a chance to help you to victory.

I read a devotional that described the following: “Imagine that someone dumps 10,000 plastic eggs in your back yard and inside one of those eggs is a check for a million dollars with your name on it. Would you quit if you opened the first 100 eggs without finding the check? How about the first 1000 eggs? Of course not! You’d just keep opening those eggs, waiting for the moment when you’d find the check.”

Paul, among other things was beaten, stoned, imprisoned, shipwrecked, starved, and rejected. Each one of them could have ended in his death. And yet he said that his sufferings were nothing compared to the glory that would come. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen which is temporary, but on what is unseen which is eternal.

In other words, Paul had opened a lot of empty eggs, but he never gave up or got discouraged. He believed that something great was in his future—God's glory revealed in him. Perhaps it feels like you’ve opened a lot of empty eggs and you've already opened 9,000 of them and you're not sure you've got the will to go on. Let me encourage you today. Don't give up.”

Paul looked toward those things as yet unseen and this kept him from losing heart. Belief in God will do that.

The essential key, of course, is to trust in God. Many years ago, a young British woman named Jackie Pullinger believed that God was calling her to Hong Kong, but no missionary society would partner with her. A pastor gave her this advise: He said: “If you had a job, a ticket, accommodations, a sick fund and a pension, you wouldn’t need to trust God that much,” he said. “If I were you, I’d go out and buy a ticket for a boat going on the longest journey you can find and pray to know where to get off...” And he said, “You can’t lose if you put yourself completely in God’s hands...”

With no idea what she was getting into, Jackie followed his advice and literally boarded a slow boat for China (HongKong). Each day, she prayed for God’s guidance. And God directed Jackie to a place in Hongkong called “the walled city,” a slum area filled with criminal gangs, drugs, prostitution and desperate poverty. Jackie had about \$10 in her pocket and no connections, no support from back home. But she trusted that God had put her there to share the message of Jesus. So one thing led to another and she began working to reach the gang members and drug addicts and prostitutes.

Over the years, her personal ministry grew and impacted thousands of people through her setting up a series of rehabilitation centers. No one could ever imagine the number of lives that would be changed because of her radical trust and obedience to what God was calling her to do. She did not lose heart even

though she had a lot of reasons to do so. We're all knocked down sometimes. But there's no burden God won't help us carry. There is no valley through which we walk that He won't also be there by our side. Focus on the tasks at hand. Trust in God and you will be renewed inwardly day by day until the day you see Him face to face. We may wobble, but we won't fall down! Amen.