

The Big Picture

Part 4 – Power

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

1. What things that make you most fearful or anxious?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-18, what are the challenges and what is the power we have at our disposal?
3. Why does Paul understand himself as a clay jar? What is he implying?
4. Read Mark 4:37-41 – How does this passage help us fight the battle between fear and faith?
5. **Discuss the quote:** *Faith needs to be strong in our heart because the feelings of powerlessness, the perception of powerlessness, is like a river of fear. It arises out of an atavistic fear, which means a deep and ancient fear within us. A fear of being destroyed, annihilated, of losing control, extinguished, overcome and overwhelmed. In the case of church I see people struggle with the secret fear that they are caught in a tsunami of social change that will dismantle their faith and sweep their church away but remember we have this treasure in jars of clay to show this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2 Corinthians 4:7).*
6. Do you ever battle with feelings of powerlessness? What do you find most helpful in winning that battle?
7. What does the Bible have to say to us about strength even when we appear to be weak?
8. The Chinese church is an incredible example of power that overcomes in times of great weakness, the following are three characteristics of Chinese faith.
 - I. Courageous faithfulness
 - II. Steadfast trust and love of the word of God
 - III. Prayer
9. In order to have that power we need to walk that walk – finish off your time praying and reflecting on this faith challenge.