

**GOD CAN USE ANYBODY!**  
**The Miracle of Mercy – Part 2**  
**April 23, 2017**

**Romans 6:13b (TLB)** *“Give yourselves completely to God—every part of you—for you are back from death and you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for His good purposes.”*

**PAUL’S SECRETS OF STAYING USABLE**  
2 Corinthians 4:1-18

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

**Mercy: unearned kindness and undeserved forgiveness.**

**2 Corinthians 4:1 (NIV)** *“Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.”*

**Galatians 1:13&15 (NLT)** *“You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it.<sup>15</sup> But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by His marvelous grace.”*

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

**Ephesians 2:10 (TLB)** *“It is God Himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago He planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.”*

**2. Be real.**

**2 Corinthians 4:2b (NCV)** *“We use no trickery, and we do not change the teaching of God. We teach the truth plainly, showing everyone who we are. Then they can know in their hearts what kind of people we are in God’s sight.”*

**Romans 8:15 (NCV)** *“The Spirit we received does not make us slaves again to fear; it makes us children of God!”*

**3. Remember it’s not about me.**

**2 Corinthians 4:5 (GW)** *“Our message is not about ourselves. It is about Jesus Christ as the Lord. We are merely your servants for Jesus’ sake.”*

**2 Corinthians 4:7 (CEV)** *“We are like clay jars in which this treasure is stored. The real power comes from God and not from us.”*

**Humility is not thinking less of yourself;**

**it’s thinking of yourself less!**

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

**2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (CEV)** *“We often suffer, but we are never crushed. Even when we don’t know what to do, we never give up. <sup>9</sup> In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again.”*

**2 Corinthians 4:15 (TLB)** *“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 kindness, and the more the Lord is glorified.”*

**2 Corinthians 4:16 (NLT)** *“That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.”*

**5. Stay focused on eternity.**

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

**2 Corinthians 4:18 (TLB)** *“So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.”*

**The key to staying focused: Small Groups**

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

**Matthew 18:20 (NIV)** *“For where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them.”*

**Do you want your life to be used by God?  
Make the choice today to experience God’s mercy!**