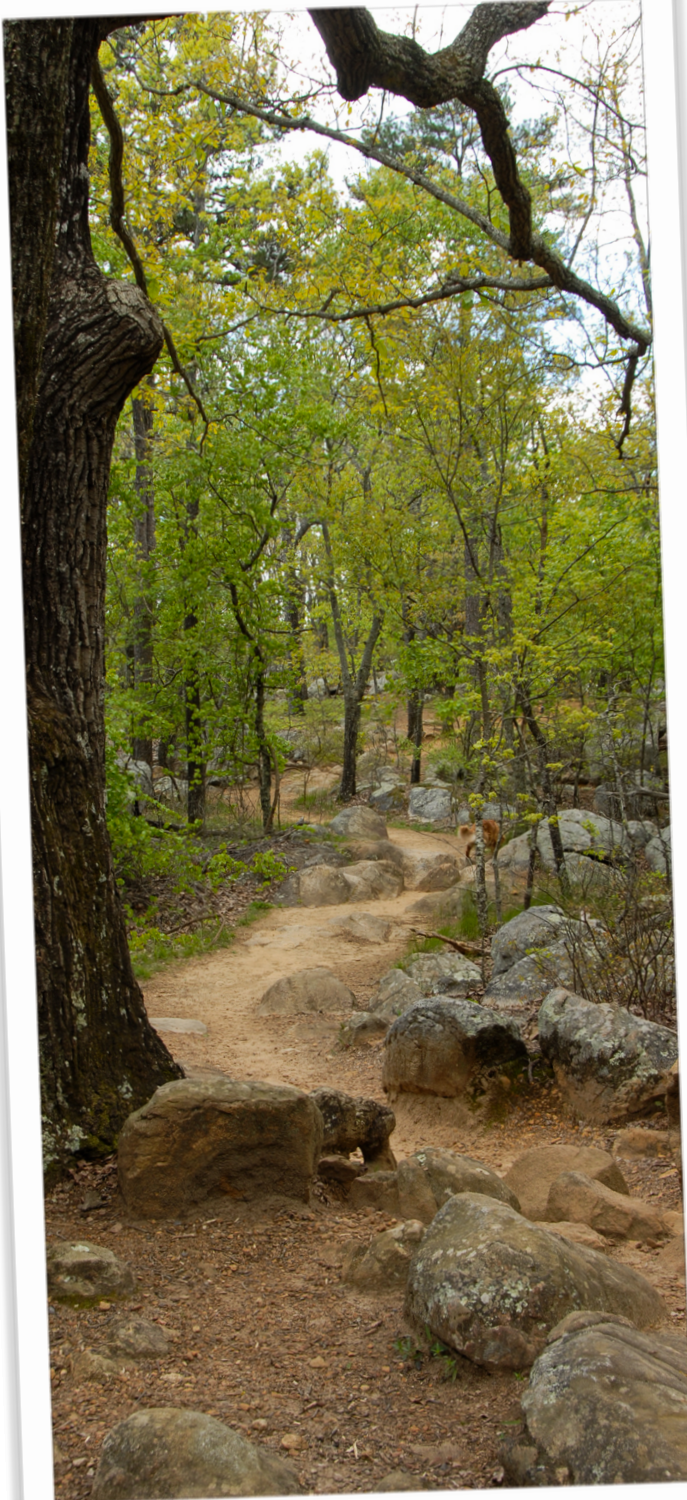


The Rocky Road of Ministry

2 Corinthians 4:1,7-12 KJV

[1] Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; [7] But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. [8] We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; [9] Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; [10] Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. [11] For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. [12] So then death worketh in us, but life in you.



Gods greatness is displayed through our weakness

We are clay pots, flawed, out of round, chipped, and imperfect. This recognition leads us to be insecure when we attempt to serve God. But through the blood of Jesus, we are made perfect in the eyes of God so we ought not count ourselves out. God knows everything about us and he STILL wants us and has need of us to accomplish his will. Even when we fail, God's will doesn't change, and we can get back on track to fulfill it. Unbelievers attempt to point out the flaws in our clay pots in hopes that by showing the flaw in the container means that everything inside is flawed, too. It's not the clay pot that's important, it's the treasure that God stores within that's important.

The adversity around us reveals Christ through us

Being a believer doesn't mean we cease to experience adversity, it means we have power within us to go through it. Often, when we are chest-deep in the muck and mire of adversity, God will allow others to see himself shine through us. It's during a storm our light shines best and with greater purpose that others may be reminded that God is with us. Adversity in our life causes Christ to rise to the surface and into the lives of others. The greatest impact we have on others lives is often the way we handled the worst time of our own.

John 16:33 KJV

[33] These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

We must always submit our circumstances to our faith

We should always keep in mind that the realities we face, experience, and endure are temporal. They exist to prepare us for the things eternal, the things we cannot see or feel. Our faith acts as a guiding light to remind us of this fact.

Hebrews 12:2 KJV

[2] Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2 Corinthians 4:3-5 KJV

[3] But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: [4] In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. [5] For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

