

# Weak and Broken ... Renewed!

By Brett Petrillo



In the armor of God, what is the sword of the Spirit?

What do you believe is being “renewed” in your life?  
“In 1846 former president John Quincy Adams suffered a stroke. Although he returned to Congress the following year, his health was clearly failing. A friend of his came in and made particular inquiry of his health. Adams answered, ‘I inhabit a weak, frail, decayed tenement; battered by the winds and broken in upon by the storms, and from all I can learn, the landlord does not intend to repair’” (Today in the Word, April 11, 1992).

The sure reality of life is the inevitability of death. All our bodies will break down, some sooner than others. Some break down in different ways than others. Cultures throughout time have tried to slow down and even beat the aging process, but all have failed. Death is one battle we will eventually lose *unless* the Lord comes first. It seems John Quincy Adams had a proper perspective on his life. He realized that (1) God is the owner, *the landlord*, of our bodies, and (2) God is to remain in control of how long we truly live.

The outlook may be somewhat discouraging, but there is good news! The text of 2 Corinthians 4:16 says, “... Though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.” The Greek word for “renewed” indicates a process that bring us nearer to the likeness of Christ. It very closely resembles the “transformation” (see 2 Corinthians 3:18, a metamorphosis) of a Christian into the image of Christ. Are you being renewed?

Just because we are “breaking down” physically, doesn't mean we have to let it happen spiritually. We may get old physically, but we can surely seek to remain mature spiritually. We may get sick physically, but we can truly stay spiritually healthy. We may get physically weak and frail, but we can positively remain spiritually strong and active. We may be persecuted and “beaten down,” but our spirit can be “renewed” and protected by God. Being a Christian comes with so much hope and reassurance! The momentary afflictions of this physical life are producing for a Christian an “eternal weight of glory.” Are you being renewed?

Yes, it's important to keep ourselves physically healthy for as long as God allows us to live. However, there is absolutely nothing more important than becoming and remaining spiritually healthy. We *must* be “renewing our inner man day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

*Are you being renewed?*

**To all our visitors:** *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few “family” announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord’s Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and Gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

*We are glad you decided to worship God with us!*

Have you seen the “IDEA BOX” YES? It humbly requests your kind “input”

**Bday/Anniv Lunch:** 2nd Sunday...

**Friday Bible Study:** 7 to 8 PM; we are studying New Testament commands that apply today...

**NMCCH:** SOUPS! Cream of Mushroom or Cream of Chicken. Sounds YUMMY!

**Men’s Day:** at Calera, 8AM breakfast on Saturday (9/7). Speaker Greg Swindle, President, Herald of Truth. “Leadership in Evangelism.”

**Ladies Day:** at Howe, 9AM on Saturday (9/28). Speaker Yvonne Butler, “Life is a Masquerade—Time to Unmask.”