

# MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

www.mountainstreamchurch.com

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## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

### Resilient



*2 Corinthians 4:7  
But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.*

With the simple phrase “but not,” Paul describes the amazing resilience of Christians. He writes in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed” (emphasis added). While Christians can be afflicted, perplexed, persecuted, and struck down, they need not be overwhelmed. How can they withstand all that trauma? How can they survive – let alone thrive – in the midst of such awful circumstances? Paul revealed the secret before he even described the Christian’s resilience.

In verse 7 he writes: “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” Paul was speaking of the fact that God has done a work in the Christian’s heart through Jesus Christ. The light of God has shined into our hearts and transformed us (verse 6). This personal knowledge of Jesus Christ is a treasure with surpassing power. It was not the personal strength and fortitude of the believer that made him so resilient. Paul says that it was clear that the power was not of human origin, but from God. The secret of the Christian’s resilience is his relationship with Christ.

How resilient are you? (I’m really asking how much are you depending on the Lord in the daily cycles of life.) Our relationship to Jesus Christ unleashes power in us to face the crushing load of harsh circumstances and affliction with amazing resilience. We might bend, but we don’t break. We hurt, but we remain faithful. We live with hope and assurance. We find the strength in Christ to continue on the path He has laid out for us.

I’m not sure of all the circumstances you are facing, but I am fully confident that like Paul, we have this treasure in vessels of clay that produces surpassing power. May we, therefore, boldly proclaim in the face of our circumstances “but not [destroyed]!”

God bless you, Pastor James

## GOD STRONG!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dwain & Tashoy Gayle are to be received into membership soon. If you have any comments, please contact Pastor James.
- Pray for the Scibelli family. Frankie’s sister-in-law Emily passed away recently.
- Pray for Neyda and her family. Neyda’s mom went to be with the Lord on Friday.
- Pray for Ena as she recovers from heart surgery.
- Rejoice with us. Nick Smith, Giustino Joseph, & Giovanni Joseph were baptized on Sunday.
- **Growth Groups begin the first week of October!** More information will follow soon.
- **Ladies Online Meeting on Saturday September 26th @ 10:30 am.**
- Support the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos annual Walk for Life on October 3. Contact Lori Ditaranto for more information @ 570 688 3072.
- **As we observe social distancing** at our in-person services, there is only a **limited number of persons who can be accommodated inside the building** at one time. **Please call ahead (570-856-3310),** or email us at [mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com](mailto:mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend this Sunday’s service so we can make adequate preparations. If you’d prefer to come and stay outside, you are welcome to. You don’t need to call.
- If you are **interested in learning basic music** (primarily for church worship purposes), please come to church on **Saturdays at 5 pm** for free instructions in keyboard, guitar and drumming. For more information please contact Dwain Gayle at 347 677 2923.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
TUE. @ 7 PM

### September 15

Join us via Zoom video  
Please contact Pastor James for details.  
[rcantio@gmail.com](mailto:rcantio@gmail.com)

**YOUTH GROUP**  
FRI @ 6:45 PM

### September 18

Youth meetings are in-person at church.

**SUNDAY SERVICE**  
@ 11 AM

### September 20

In-person service and livestream.  
Livestreaming is only on Facebook and our church’s website.

**VIRTUAL KIDZONE**  
SUN @ 4 PM

### September 20

Kidzone is available every Sunday.  
Contact Candice at [candicebrich@gmail.com](mailto:candicebrich@gmail.com) for logon information.

## QUICK TIPS

### Two ways to give your offering.

Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit “SAVE” after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!

## WE ARE HERE TO HELP

If at any time during this virus outbreak you feel that you need some help: whether you are physically unable to go out for groceries, or you might need a little financial help due to the virus, or you just need prayer, feel free to reach out to us, our contact details are below.

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