

**Reflections on the Apostle Paul as a leader**  
(Based on 2 Corinthians)  
**The Persevering Leader**

*“Take the long-term view and stick to it”*  
2 Corinthians 4

**Ramez Atallah** was born in Cairo, Egypt and immigrated with his family to Canada when he was sixteen. He came to know the Lord through a local church in Montreal and was discipled as a student through the Inter-Varsity group at McGill University. From 1972 to 1980 he developed and directed the ministry of the Groupes Bibliques Universitaires du Quebec. In 1980 along with his wife and two children he returned to Egypt, where he became the IFES Regional Secretary for the Middle East. He attended the first Lausanne Congress and was appointed as a youth representative to the Lausanne Committee in 1975. He served on the Committee from 1975 to 1994. In 2006 he rejoined Lausanne as Program Chairman for Lausanne III Cape Town Congress. After the Congress, he was appointed as one of the Deputy Chairs of the Lausanne Movement until 2015. Since 1990 he has been the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Egypt, the position he still holds until now.

**Paul concludes chapter 3 affirming: -**

“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord...” (3:18)

And He begins chapter 4: -

“**Therefore**, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, **we do not lose heart.**” v.1

He will conclude chapter 4 with another “**therefore**”: -

“**Therefore we do not lose heart.** Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day”. v.16

“FOMO” the “**Fear Of Missing Out**” is a disease which is spreading among us.

*“Fear of missing out (FOMO) refers to the apprehension that one is either not in-the-know or is out of touch with some social events, experiences, and interactions. People who grapple with FOMO might not know exactly what they are missing but can still hold a fear that others are having a much better time or having a much more rewarding experience on the spur of the moment. FOMO could result from a variety of social activities in which one is absent, such as a conversation, a TV show, a wedding, a party, or a delicious restaurant in town.”*

- Many leaders “lose heart” and give up early – discouragement is a deadly disease!
- Ministry is a long-term affair – in most cases we only see fruit many years later

Perseverance is the best anti-dote to FOMO!

**The Persevering Leader is...**

1. Transparent
2. Resilient

3. Hopeful
4. Inwardly renewed

“Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, **we do not lose heart.**” v.1

### 1. TRANSPARENT

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God,

- we do not lose heart. But...
- we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways.
- we refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth...
- we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. (vs. 1-2)

*How would Paul have filled out a project proposal for a Christian Foundation which asked for validated, tangible, numerical results?!*

### 2. RESILIENT

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are...

- **afflicted** in every way, but not crushed;
- **perplexed**, but not driven to despair;
- **persecuted**, but not forsaken;
- **struck down**, but not destroyed;

always carrying in the body the death of Jesus,  
so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. (vs. 7-10)

### 3. HOPEFUL (vs. 13-15)

#### **The Mokattam Garbage Village Story**

How God used a persevering leader to change a community from the inside out...and impact the world!

### 4. INWARDLY RENEWED

- So we do not lose heart.
- Though our outer self is wasting away, *our inner self is being renewed day by day.*
- For this *light momentary affliction* is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (vs. 16-18)

*Overcome FOMO by asking God to help you take the long-term view of your life and stick to it.*