

# 2 Corinthians



Power in Weakness

# **Power in Weakness**

**Like Jesus – 2 Corinthians 3**

*Romans 8:29 - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

**Background**

**4 things that the Spirit does**

**The Spirit gives us a greater power –**

*1Are we beginning to praise ourselves again? Are we like others, who need to bring you letters of recommendation, or who ask you to write such letters on their behalf? Surely not! 2 Corinthians 3:1-3*

2*The only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves. Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. 2 Corinthians 3:1-3*

3Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This “letter” is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:1-3



**The proof of my ministry is the fruit  
of my ministry**

4 *We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ.*

5 *It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God.*

*2 Corinthians 3:4-6*

6 *He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.*

*2 Corinthians 3:4-6*

**hikanoó – “enabled”**

**Gk- qualify, to make able**

Other translations - Competent, sufficient, adequate, able ministers

3I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. 4And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. 5I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:3-5

## **2. The Spirit gives us a greater Presence**

7The old way,<sup>b</sup> with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away. 2 Corinthians 3:7

8Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life? 9If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God! 2 Corinthians 3:8-9



10In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new way. 11So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever!

2 Corinthians 3:10-11

**8x – the word “glory” in chapter 3**

29 *When Moses came down Mount Sinai carrying the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, he wasn't aware that his face had become radiant because he had spoken to the LORD. Exodus 34:28-30*

30 So when Aaron and the people of Israel saw the radiance of Moses' face, they were afraid to come near him. Exodus 34:28-30

31 But Moses called out to them and asked Aaron and all the leaders of the community to come over, and he talked with them. 32 Then all the people of Israel approached him, and Moses gave them all the instructions the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai. Exodus 34:31-33

33 *When Moses finished speaking with them, he covered his face with a veil.*  
*Exodus 34:31-33*

34But whenever he went into the Tent of Meeting to speak with the LORD, he would remove the veil until he came out again. Then he would give the people whatever instructions the LORD had given him, Exodus 34:34-35

35 and the people of Israel would see the radiant glow of his face. So he would put the veil over his face until he returned to speak with the LORD.  
Exodus 34:34-35



8will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? 9If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

2 Corinthians 3:8-11

10For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. 11And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts! 2 Corinthians 3:8-11

**The Spirit gives us a greater  
perspective**

*Therefore, since we have such a hope,  
we are very bold. 2 Corinthians 3:12*

13We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. 14But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. 2 Corinthians 3:13-16

15Even to this day when Moses is read,  
a veil covers their hearts. 16But  
whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the  
veil is taken away. 2 Corinthians 3:13-  
16

*1 Corinthians 2:9*

*“No eye has seen, no ear has heard,  
and no mind has imagined  
what God has prepared  
for those who love him.”*

10 But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets.

**4. The Spirit gives us a greater  
process**



17Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

## **Personal application questions:**

What was the Holy Spirit showing you today?

Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit?

How are you being filled with the Holy Spirit regularly?

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