

2 Corinthians



Power in Weakness

From Breakdown to Breakthrough

What separated those who break-down from those who breakthrough?

How can the pain of life become that which propels you into His purpose?

20We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.21God made him who had no sin to be sin-for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

1. We remember who we are

1As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it. 2For God says,

"At just the right time, I heard you.

On the day of salvation, I helped you."

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

Sunergountes – Gk

fellow worker, Co-operate, help, joint-laborer, helper, working together with Him

“Employed by God in such an important embassy”

Benson Commentary

**When we cooperate with God, He
will cooperate with us**

**God has favorites, you get to decide
if you will be one – Chris Hodges**

This is what the LORD says:

“In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and

*to reassign its desolate inheritances,
9to say to the captives, 'Come out,'
and to those in darkness, 'Be free!'
“They will feed beside the roads
and find pasture on every barren hill.*

Isaiah 49:8

***Indeed, the “right time” is now.
Today is the day of salvation.***

2 Corinthians 6:2

**2. We move beyond
salvation to participation**

Well, now is the right time to listen, the day to be helped. Don't put it off; don't frustrate God's work by showing up late, throwing a question mark over everything we're doing. Our work as God's servants gets validated—or not—in the details. MSG version

The time is now!

Don't put it off

Don't be late

You don't have to – you get to!

Stop questioning and critiquing

**If you don't get better yourself, you
will be a critic of those who do –**

Chris Hodges

3*We live in such a way that no one will stumble because of us, and no one will find fault with our ministry. 2 Cor. 6:3*

**3. We live above reproach so
that others will approach God**

4In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind. 5We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food.

**6We prove ourselves by our purity,
our understanding, our patience, our
kindness, by the Holy Spirit within
us,-and by our sincere love**

**2x in 2 verses he mentions the word
patience**

We prove that we are true people of
God by our sincere love – vs. 6

7We faithfully preach the truth. God's power is working in us. We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense.

***As ministers – we faithfully preach
the truth – vs. 7***

***We know that God's power is
working in us. Vs. 7***

8We serve God whether people honor us or despise us, whether they slander us or praise us. We are honest, but they call us impostors.

9We are ignored, even though we are well known. We live close to death, but we are still alive. We have been beaten, but we have not been killed. 10Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.

**4. We choose to turn our breakdowns
into our breakthroughs.**

Our quality of life is our choice!

Our joy is our choice!

Our riches are our choice!

Our possessions are our choice!

11 Oh, dear Corinthian friends! We have spoken honestly with you, and our hearts are open to you. 12 There is no lack of love on our part, but you have withheld your love from us. 13 I am asking you to respond as if you were my own children. Open your hearts to us! 2 Corinthians 6:11-13

*Our love is our choice – regardless
of how others love us!*

Application questions:

How can you remind yourself that you are an ambassador for God to reconcile the world back to Him?

How well are you serving others in your home, the church, and the world?

In what areas of your life are you not living above reproach?

What choices do you want to make to move from breakdown to breakthrough?