

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **June 10, 2018** sermon, "Letters of Recommendation." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 3:1-11) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

KNOWING OUR SUFFICIENCY FOR MINISTRY COMES FROM GOD, NOTE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN . . .

1. The Holy Spirit and the human heart (1-3)
 - a. When itinerant teachers wanted to gain a hearing, they carried letters of recommendation from prominent teachers.
 - i. Paul's "letter of recommendation" came from God himself.
 - ii. The proof was evidenced in the Corinthian believers, as they grew in Christ.
 - b. Since the Holy Spirit is a person, not a power (or a force) . . .
 - i. believers cannot get "more of him" (which would produce spiritual pride)
 - ii. but we can submit more of ourselves to him (which comes in humility)
2. The Holy Spirit and the new covenant (4-6)
 - a. The test of the ministry of the new covenant is Christ Jesus.
 - b. We do not measure ministry by sincerity or passion or persuasiveness.
 - c. We measure ministry by the way Christ is proclaimed faithfully.
3. The Holy Spirit and the surpassing glory (7-11)
 - a. God's glory is "heavy," which means we must not take him lightly.
 - b. We minister from the inside out, as God works by His Spirit in and through our hearts.
 - i. Who is sufficient for these things? None of us.
 - ii. Who provides the necessary resources? It is God.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Where the Spirit reigns, the believer is connected with other believers (fellowship), with God Himself (worship), with the Word of God (teaching) and with the world (evangelism). Talk about how you see the Spirit reigning in our church and in the world today.
2. Based on #1, above: You can't get "more of the Holy Spirit." When you are converted you get all of Him. So our ability to draw near is not dependent upon "more" Holy Spirit, but instead upon us to walk in obedience, to search and submit to the Word, and to yield ourselves more fully to him every day. How does this truth challenge/encourage you?
3. Based on #2, above: There are many sincere and passionate and persuasive teachers out there, but we must never be tempted to follow a teacher because of apparent success (numeric or financial or media growth, for instance). We must bring everyone who seeks to minister back to this: "do they proclaim Christ and line up with the Scriptures?" Discuss.
4. Based on #3, above: God makes us sufficient to minister the "New Covenant" (Jeremiah 31:31-34). We must never think that we can do this without God. And we must never think that we cannot do this with God. How is God providing opportunities for you to minister the New Covenant today? Who are your neighbors? What is your work? What are your passions? How are you stepping in to this high calling of ministry? How can we pray for you?