

You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:3-6 (NIV)

Rely On Me

You have heard my call? Yes Lord, I have heard your call. You are asking me to do something for you. **Yes I am, but you seem reluctant, why is that?** I don't feel like I am able to do what you are asking me to do for you. **I'm not surprised one bit, not at all, even in the least.** Why is that? **You feel like you may be incompetent, insufficient, inadequate and unable to do what I am asking of you.** Yes, that's right. **Do you know why you have those feelings?** No. I don't. If I knew then maybe I wouldn't have them. I wish that I didn't have them. **You have these feelings because you really are incompetent, insufficient, inadequate and unable to do what I am asking you to do for me.** Great, I thought that you might give me a word of encouragement. I thought that you might affirm all my gifts, talents, and abilities. **I would rather tell you the truth.** What is the truth? **The truth is that all your gifts, talents and abilities do not add up to you being able to accomplish all that I have given you to do for me.** Why is that? **Only I can make you competent, sufficient, adequate and able. If you rely solely on your gifts, talents and abilities you will fall flat on your face.** That sounds like it would hurt a lot. **Yes, it does hurt.** You should know. Why is that? **Haven't you relied on yourself and fallen flat on your face plenty of times?** Yes, by now I probably should have callouses on my face. **That's pretty funny. Flat on your face is not a bad place to be is it?** Why do you say that? **What have you done when you have fallen flat on your face?** I have cried out to you for your help. **Yes, you have.**

You want me to use you, don't you? Yes Lord, I do. **Then you must rely on me completely. Apart from me you can do nothing. When you rely on me completely I will make you able to accomplish all that I have asked you to do for me.**

Is there anything more important to you than to be used by me to minister to others? No, there is nothing more important to me than to serve you. **Will anything make you more thankful than to know that I have made you able to minister to others? Will anything give you more confidence and hope than to know that you have done what could not be done because you relied on me? Will anything give you more joy than to know that others have given their lives to me because of how I have worked in and through your life?** No Lord, nothing will make me more thankful, confident, hopeful and joyful than to know that you have used me according to your purposes and plans. **Will you rely on me completely to do my work in and through you?** Yes Lord, I will. **Very good, then I will make you completely competent, fully sufficient, totally adequate, and surely able to serve me.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, so often I have relied solely on my gifts, talents and abilities to try to accomplish what you have asked me to do for you. That has never worked. Help me to rely on you for all that I need to serve you. Make me able, I pray. Amen

Transformation *Made Us Competent*

You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

NIV 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

Transformation *Has Enabled Us*

Clearly, 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. We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. 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.

NLT 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

Transformation *Made Us Competent*

and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

NRSV 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

Transformation *Has Qualified Us*

You show and make obvious that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, not written with ink but with [the] Spirit of [the] living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the reliance and confidence that we have through Christ toward and with reference to God. Not that we are fit (qualified and sufficient in ability) of ourselves to form personal judgments or to claim or count anything as coming from us, but our power and ability and sufficiency are from God. [It is He] Who has qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ], not [ministers] of the letter (of legally written code) but of the Spirit; for the code [of the Law] kills, but the [Holy] Spirit makes alive.

AMP 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

Transformation *Made Us Adequate*

being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

NASB 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

Transformation *Our Sufficiency Is From God*

And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

ESV 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

Transformation *Made Us Sufficient*

clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart. And we have such trust through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

NKJV 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

Transformation *Authorizes Us*

Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God's living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives—and we publish it. We couldn't be more sure of ourselves in this—that you, written by Christ himself for God, are our letter of recommendation. We wouldn't think of writing this kind of letter about ourselves. Only God can write such a letter. His letter authorizes us to help carry out this new plan of action. The plan wasn't written out with ink on paper, with pages and pages of legal footnotes, killing your spirit. It's written with Spirit on spirit, his life on our lives!

MSG 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

Transformation *Has Helped Us*

They can see that you are a letter from Christ, written by us. It is not a letter written with pen and ink, but by the Spirit of the living God; not one carved on stone, but in human hearts. We dare to say these good things about ourselves only because of our great trust in God through Christ, that he will help us to be true to what we say, and not because we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success comes from God. He is the one who has helped us tell others about his new agreement to save them. We do not tell them that they must obey every law of God or die; but we tell them there is life for them from the Holy Spirit. The old way, trying to be saved by keeping the Ten Commandments, ends in death; in the new way, the Holy Spirit gives them life.

TLB 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

Transformation *Makes Us Able*

You show that you are a letter from Christ sent through us. This letter is not written with ink but with the Spirit of the living God. It is not written on stone tablets but on human hearts. We can say this, because through Christ we feel certain before God. We are not saying that we can do this work ourselves. It is God who makes us able to do all that we do. He made us able to be servants of a new agreement from himself to his people. This new agreement is not a written law, but it is of the Spirit. The written law brings death, but the Spirit gives life.

NCV 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

Made Us Competent

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Transformation – 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

In Context: Read 2 Corinthians 3

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: *(What is God speaking to your heart?)*

You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant--not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

Considering The Words: *(What words speak to your heart?)*

You show that | you are | a letter | from Christ, | the result | of our ministry, | written not | with ink | but with | the Spirit | of the | living God, | not on tablets | of stone | but on | tablets of | human hearts. | Such confidence | as this | is ours | through Christ | before God. | Not that | we are competent | in ourselves | to claim anything | for ourselves, | but our competence | comes from | God. | He has | made us | competent as | ministers of | a new covenant |--not of | the letter | but of | the Spirit; | for the | letter kills, | but the Spirit | gives life. 2 Corinthians 3:3-6

Praying The Scripture: *(What prayer from your heart will you write?)*

Lord, so often I have relied solely on my gifts, talents and abilities to try to accomplish what you have asked me to do for you. That has never worked. Help me to rely on you for all that I need to serve you. Make me able, I pray. Amen

What It Means: *(What questions speak to your heart?)* (Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)

When have you felt unable to do all that the Lord was asking you to do for Him?

Why does the Lord often ask you to do for Him what is beyond your gifts, talents, and abilities?

What can you accomplish on your own without relying on the Lord to help you?

When have you relied solely on your own gifts, talents and abilities and fallen flat on your face?

How are you making it your practice to rely on the Lord to enable you to do all that He asks of you?

When has the Lord made you able to accomplish something for Him that was far beyond your abilities?

How would you like the Lord to use in ministry to others, bearing fruit for His kingdom and glory?

Living It Out: *(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)*

Make it your practice to rely on the Lord so that you will be able to do all that He asks of you.

Seeing It Happen: *(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)*

Have faith that the Lord will enable to do all that He asks of you so that you can bear fruit for His kingdom and glory.

Get Ready To Share: *(What can you share with others from your heart?)*

Share with another person or your small group something difficult that the Lord has asked you to do for Him.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

