

A Change of Heart

Read: 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

Main idea: Transformed hearts lead to transformed lives, making us living letters that testify to Christ's grace and power.

Key Verses: "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." **(2 Corinthians 3:3 ESV)**

Key Principles:

- Our transformed lives serve as a testimony to God's work through Christ, visible to all.
- The Spirit of God writes on our hearts, replacing the external law with an internal, living relationship with God.
- Our sufficiency comes not from ourselves but from God, who empowers us to live as ministers of the new covenant.
- The new covenant, fulfilled in Christ, brings life and righteousness, contrasting with the old covenant's inability to transform hearts.
- God's work in our hearts creates a relational trust that validates authentic ministry, not reliant on human credentials.
- The Spirit's transformative power enables believers to embody the gospel, making their lives a proclamation of God's glory.

Discussion:

1. How have you seen God's transforming work in your life or in others' lives? How does this reflect the idea of being a "living letter" for Christ?
2. Paul says the Corinthians are a letter "known and read by everyone" (3:2). What are practical ways your life can display Christ to those around you?
3. How does the Spirit's work in your heart differ from following external rules or laws? Can you share an example of a time you felt the Spirit leading you to obey God?
4. In what areas of your life do you struggle to rest in God's strength rather than your own? How can you grow in trusting His sufficiency?
5. Paul contrasts the "letter that kills" with the "Spirit that gives life" (3:6). How does the new covenant empower you to live differently than under the old covenant's law)?
6. How can you cultivate a relationship with others that reflects the trust and authenticity Paul describes, rather than relying on external credentials?
7. In what ways can your life proclaim God's glory through the Spirit's transformative work, as Paul suggests the Corinthians do?

Prayer:

- Pray for hearts transformed by the Spirit, reflecting Christ's grace and power.
- Pray for:
 - God to make you a living letter, displaying and declaring Christ to others.
 - Strength to trust in God's grace rather than your own abilities.
 - God to align your heart with His will under the new covenant.

A Change of Heart
2 Corinthians 3:1-6

- | | | |
|------------|--|--------------|
| I. | <u>Boast</u> in God's <u>Transforming</u> Work. | 3:1-3 |
| 1. | <u>Display</u> Christ in Your <u>Life</u> . | 3:2 |
| 2. | <u>Declare</u> Christ in Your <u>witness</u> . | 3:3 |
| 2. | <u>Depend</u> on the Spirit in Your <u>Heart</u> . | 3:3 |
| II. | <u>Build</u> on God's <u>Sufficient</u> Grace. | 3:4-6 |
| 1. | <u>Rest</u> in God's Mighty <u>Strength</u> . | 3:4 |
| 2. | <u>Rely</u> on God's Sure <u>Protection</u> . | 3:5 |
| 3. | <u>Rejoice</u> in God's New <u>Covenant</u> . | 3:6 |

NEXT WEEK:
Experiencing God's Glory
2 Corinthians 3:7-18