

Christ's Power Displayed in Our Weakness

2 Corinthians 1:1-2

January 15, 2023

OVERVIEW Second Corinthians distinguishes life in Christ from marketing, triumphalism, and celebrity leaders. Instead, the power of Christ is best displayed in ordinary believers who live in freedom in the Spirit of the Lord. True spirituality, grown in the soil of weakness and disappointment, is recognized as authentic because that's where God's power may be clearly displayed.

A brief outline of 2 Corinthians

Chapters 1 thru 7 Paul explains his actions and ministry

Chapters 8 and 9 Collection for Christians at Jerusalem

Chapters 10 thru 13 Paul defends his apostolic authority

1 *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,*

- The author signs at the front, not the end
- His **apostleship** is one key reason for writing the letter
- He was **chosen** (see Acts 9:15) as an apostle ("sent one") of the Messiah (Anointed) Jesus (Savior)
- It was God's will to make Paul an apostle, not **Paul's**

To the church of God in Corinth, together with all his holy people throughout Achaia:

- The **church** was his second reason for writing
- It was a local church in a known place and time
- The "church of God"—it is God's church—not Paul's
- Paul calls them "saints" or **holy** ones" even though their behavior was quite the opposite at times

2 *Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

- Grace is unmerited favor and peace is **well-being**
- **From** God our (Father) and Lord (boss) Jesus Christ

On Your Own (better with others)

1. What is the victorious Christian life? Write a definition below.
2. **DISCUSS**—one preacher wrote that "Second Corinthians bears a fierce tone of injured love, of paradoxically wounded, relentless affection." Why didn't Paul just give up on them?
3. The verses below are some of the most well-known in Second Corinthians. Match the reference with the phrase. This will take you through the entire letter. One has been done for you.

2 Cor. 1:3	Christ became sin for us
2 Cor. 1:20	God loves a cheerful giver
2 Cor. 2:17	We aren't "selling" God's Word
2 Cor. 3:18	Jesus became poor for our sakes
2 Cor. 4:7	Satan hides as an angel of light
2 Cor. 5:8	Godly sorrow brings repentance
2 Cor. 5:15	We have treasure in jars of clay
2 Cor. 5:21	The words of "The grace"
2 Cor. 6:14	God's promises are yes in Christ
2 Cor. 7:10	Christ's power in our weakness
2 Cor. 8:9	It's okay to boast in the Lord
2 Cor. 9:8	We're changed to Christ's likeness
2 Cor. 10:17	Pastor Tom's life verse
2 Cor. 11:14	Absent from the body, present . . .
2 Cor. 12:9	Do not be unequally yoked
2 Cor. 13:14	God is the Father of mercies