

Returning to the Authentic Gospel
Restoring Our Faith – Evidence of Spiritual Leaders
2 Corinthians 6:3-13

Second Corinthians
Returning to the Authentic Gospel

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Second Corinthians
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How can you determine if someone is a true Spiritual Leader?

Whether the Spiritual Leader is a Pastor, Minister, Teacher, Deacon, Elder, or Small Group Leader, there are certain characteristics that should become evident...

1. A Humble FOCUS

2 Corinthians 6:3 (ESV) — We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry

Paul has just stated one of the most important statements on God's reconciliation of humanity in Christ found in all of Scripture...

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV) — For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

He preceded this amazing statement with his view of his ministry...

2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV) — Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Paul's FOCUS was clear...

Philippians 1:21 (ESV) — For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

BUT, his focus was garnered through humility...

He was not working harder than everyone else to ring his own bell...

His primary passion was Jesus!

His goal was to bring Jesus glory!

The true Spiritual Leader is not trying to make a name for himself!

Baruch was a prophet who worked with Jeremiah...

He penned much of the Book of Jeremiah as his scribe...

Life was very tough... The pressures and pains of walking with Jeremiah were almost unbearable...

Baruch complained...

Jeremiah 45:3 (ESV) — You said, ‘Woe is me! For the LORD has added sorrow to my pain. I am weary with my groaning, and I find no rest.’

Hear the Lord’s response...

Jeremiah 45:5 (ESV) — And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares the LORD. But I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go.”

1. A Humble FOCUS

2. A Great ENDURANCE

2 Corinthians 6:4a (ESV) — But as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance ...

In verses 4-10, we are given a detailed account of great endurance...

➤ **The NECESSITY for great endurance**

2 Corinthians 6:4b–5 (ESV) — ... by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger

The true Spiritual Leader is one who will face continual obstacles...

“If it was easy, everyone would do it!”

Galatians 6:9 (ESV) — And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

➤ **The NECESSITY for great endurance**

➤ **The POWER for great endurance**

2 Corinthians 6:6–7a (ESV) — By purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God...

Paul then lists the power he is reliant upon to minister with great endurance...

His power is found in his reliance upon the Holy Spirit...

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV) — But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

A spiritual leaders ability to endure is not found in his/her personal willpower, but in his/her reliance upon the power of God

Colossians 1:29 (ESV) — For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Paul maintained his power for great endurance through his continual, constant connection with the Holy Spirit

➤ **The SUSTAINABILITY of great endurance**

2 Corinthians 6:7b–8a (ESV) — ... With the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise...

The need for a spiritual leader's great endurance is ongoing...

Not every day does he/she face obstacles and attacks, but they must be ready every day...

NOTICE: The attacks can come from both seemingly positive and negative sides...

2 Corinthians 6:8a (ESV) — ... through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise...

If Satan has slain thousands through dishonor and slander, he has slain tens of thousands through honor and praise!

How does the Spiritual Leader endure these testings?

2 Corinthians 6:7b (ESV) — ... With the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left ...

He/she fights against any and every temptation to steal God's glory or cower in defeat by reliance upon the righteousness of Christ!

Satan's attempts are to bring about moral or ethical failure upon the Spiritual Leader...

Only divine righteousness can keep the minister/leader safe!

1 Timothy 1:18–19 (ESV) — This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith,

➤ **The PARADOX of great endurance**

2 Corinthians 6:8b–10 (ESV) — ... We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Enduring all these things does not necessarily change people's opinions nor public perception of the Spiritual Leader, but it does transform the perspective of the Spiritual Leader

3. An Open VULNERABILITY

2 Corinthians 6:11–13 (ESV) — We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

January 18, 2023

Crossgates, Wed Worship

David Jett

What does Paul mean when he says his heart is wide open?

The phrase “wide open” means...

To make evident that one has affection for someone—‘to show affection for, to open one’s heart to.’

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1. A Humble _____

2. A Great _____

➤ The _____ for great endurance

➤ The _____ for great endurance

➤ The _____ of great endurance

➤ The _____ of great endurance

3. An Open _____

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