

THE BOOK OF

# 2 Corinthians

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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CREATED BY STEVE CASE

# Let the Good Times Roll

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## OPENING QUESTION

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As a child, who would you go to for comfort (besides your mom)?

### READ 2 Corinthians 1:1–24.

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#### 1. For whom did Paul write this letter?

- A. Church members in Corinth.
- B. Everyone living in Corinth.
- C. Strong church leaders in Corinth who challenged Paul's authority.
- D. Christians in Achaia–Southern Greece.
- E. Christians all over the world in Paul's day.
- F. Christians all over the world today.
- G. You and me.
- H. Problem churches.
- I. Other.

#### 2. Why does God comfort us (*vs 3 ff*)?

- A. That's just what God does.
- B. That's just what we need.
- C. He does it only when we really need it.
- D. He doesn't always comfort us.
- E. This way we can pass on comfort to others.
- F. It provides the antidote to suffering.
- G. This is too "touchy-feely" for me.
- H. Because we hurt each other so much.
- I. Other.

#### 3. Why did Paul play the "I almost died" card (*vs 9*)?

- A. He almost did die.
- B. Paul had lots of near-death experiences.
- C. This illustrated that Christ's followers can be killed for their beliefs.
- D. This illustrated that Christ's followers can't be killed for their beliefs.
- E. This served as a warning about what the Corinthians might face.
- F. Paul hoped this would bolster his standing.
- G. This showed that praying for the safety of others pays off.
- H. The Corinthian believers needed a wake-up call.
- I. Other.

**4. Who is honest and straightforward with you, even if you misunderstand.**

- A. God.
- B. Paul.
- C. All the Bible writers.
- D. My pastor.
- E. No one.
- F. Only the people closest to me.
- G. People who criticize me.
- H. Someone in my family.
- I. Other.

**5. What is a clear “yes” from Jesus, with no equivocation?**

- A. The assurance of salvation.
- B. Our plans for the future.
- C. The messages from the Bible.
- D. Christ’s promise to return soon.
- E. The interplay between faith and works.
- F. Identifying who are the true followers of Jesus.
- G. You will have tribulations if you follow Jesus.
- H. Other.

**6. How can you tell if the Holy Spirit is in a person?**

- A. They are kind.
- B. Forgiveness flows.
- C. Such people are always happy.
- D. You can’t tell for sure.
- E. It requires spiritual discernment.
- F. It’s obvious—you can’t miss it.
- G. The changes in a person’s life.
- H. Other.

**7. For whom do you pray? Why?**

**8. Is the Holy Spirit in you (vs. 22)? What difference does that make?**

# Let's Get Together

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Who is someone who brightens your day when they show up?

### READ 2 Corinthians 2:1–17.

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#### 1. Who are you most likely to avoid?

- A. People I don't like.
- B. People who don't like me.
- C. Someone I need to confront.
- D. Someone I need to forgive.
- E. Superficial people.
- F. Super deep-thinking people.
- G. Those in authority.
- H. Those who lack authority.
- I. Other.

#### 2. Why didn't Paul visit the church in Corinth?

- A. It was too wicked.
- B. It was too self-righteous.
- C. His busy schedule wouldn't permit it.
- D. The Holy Spirit didn't lead him there (like in *Acts 16:6-10*).
- E. Paul wasn't the kind of person who confronted others.
- F. Paul wanted some love and joy, not church discipline confrontations.
- G. The church members weren't ready to see Paul.
- H. Sometimes it's best to have a little distance from those you love.
- I. Other.

#### 3. Why did Paul cry over the church in Corinth (*vs 4*)?

- A. He loved them so much.
- B. He felt hurt that sin went unchecked in this church.
- C. Paul feared he had lost this church to Satan.
- D. Paul worried the people would take his rebuke wrong.
- E. Paul cried about the letter, not the church.
- F. Tears need to accompany a message of rebuke.
- G. He knew this could sever his relationship with this church.
- H. They were actually tears of joy.
- I. Other.

**4. How should you relate to church members who live immorally?**

- A. Rebuke them.
- B. Restore them.
- C. Ignore them.
- D. Forgive them.
- E. It's none of your business.
- F. Certain sins are more offensive than others.
- G. Clean up your own act before you tell others to clean up theirs.
- H. Other.

**5. Who should confront sin in the church (in spite of *John 8:7*)?**

- A. Anyone.
- B. Everyone.
- C. No one.
- D. The pastor and/or church elders.
- E. The Holy Spirit.
- F. Outsiders.
- G. Insiders.
- H. The media, including social media.
- I. Other.

**6. When or where does God use you to tell others about Jesus?**

- A. All the time.
- B. Everywhere.
- C. At my work.
- D. In my home.
- E. At 3rd places (not work or home, but another place—a “3rd place”—where you invest time).
- F. At church.
- G. When I travel.
- H. Other.

**7. When you come in contact with others, what makes you “fragrant” and what makes you a “stench” (*vs 15-16*)?**

**8. God is watching you (*vs 17*). Is that a good thing or a bad thing?**

# Obviously

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What is one thing about you other people seem to notice?

### READ 2 Corinthians 3:1–18.

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**1. For whom (or what) is your life like a living recommendation letter?**

- A. My beliefs and values.
- B. My sports team.
- C. My family.
- D. My friends.
- E. My church.
- F. My AA (or other addiction) group.
- G. My work or school.
- H. My preferred restaurant (food or drink place).
- I. Other.

**2. What has the Holy Spirit carved on your heart that recommends Christ?**

- A. Gentleness.
- B. Courage.
- C. Humility.
- D. Confidence.
- E. Kindness.
- F. Good works.
- G. Discernment.
- H. Forgiveness.
- I. Other.

**3. Put a “✓” by which items apply to the Old Covenant and which apply to the New Covenant:**

OLD COVENANT		NEW COVENANT
_____	From God, for humans.	_____
_____	Helpful.	_____
_____	Glorious.	_____
_____	Instructive.	_____
_____	Powerful.	_____
_____	Inadequate.	_____
_____	Timeless.	_____
_____	Life-giving.	_____
_____	Other:_____.	_____

**4. How has God changed over time, as recorded in the Bible?**

- A. God never changes.
- B. Our understanding of God changes over time.
- C. As God reveals more of himself, our understanding changes.
- D. Our way of thinking and our experiences shape our view of God.
- E. God changed from the Old Testament to the New Testament.
- F. God changed from one part of the Old Testament to another.
- G. The “NEW Covenant” is found in the OLD Testament—*Jeremiah 31:31-34*.
- H. Mount Sinai differs from Mount Carmel, which differs from Calvary
- I. Other.

**5. How does the Old Covenant harden hearts and veil minds today?**

- A. Personal ego.
- B. Disagreements.
- C. Fear of being dominated by others.
- D. Lack of understanding.
- E. The drive to be right.
- F. For some, it’s easier to abide with the Old Covenant.
- G. Strong personalities.
- H. Other.

**6. What do you like the BEST about the New Covenant?**

- A. It’s new.
- B. It comes from God.
- C. All the glory.
- D. All the power.
- E. It provides bold confidence/security.
- F. The dynamic nature—it’s not static.
- G. It truly makes me more like Jesus.
- H. Other.

**7. What is the Old Covenant and what is the New Covenant? How do you relate to these two covenants?**

**8. How has the Holy Spirit impacted your life lately?**

# Not Giving Up

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Who do you trust to tell you the truth?

### READ 2 Corinthians 4:1–18.

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**1. Why don't you give up (lose heart) on the ministry God gave you (3:18)?**

- A. I didn't know God had given me a ministry.
- B. There are no compelling reasons to stop.
- C. It's God's ministry.
- D. I see it being effective.
- E. It's discouraging when it seems ineffective.
- F. God called me to this.
- G. Sometimes I do feel like giving up.
- H. It feeds me.
- I. Other.

**2. How do you tell the truth about God in a straightforward way?**

- A. I tell it like it is.
- B. I tell it like I see it.
- C. It's better to first develop a relationship with a listener.
- D. It's important to have the right theology (understanding of God).
- E. Consciously put my own ego aside.
- F. Cover the tough doctrines instead of avoiding them.
- G. Rely on God to tell me what to say.
- H. Give the whole story about Jesus, not just the easy stuff.
- I. Other.

**3. Why is it that some people don't accept the Good News about Jesus?**

- A. It's not Good News to them.
- B. It requires a commitment they aren't willing to make.
- C. The person presenting the Good News might present it poorly.
- D. Too many other distractions.
- E. It seems too good to be true.
- F. Satan has blinded their minds.
- G. It seems irrelevant to them right now.
- H. They have questions about Jesus.
- I. Other.



**4. When has God done something through you that was beyond you?**

- A. God gave me words to speak when I had no idea what to say.
- B. I've held my temper when it seemed impossible.
- C. I can't think of that ever happening.
- D. I have received love for others I couldn't love on my own.
- E. A specific miracle.
- F. God's timing.
- G. Every day; all the time.
- H. Forgiving someone who hurt me terribly.
- I. Other.

**5. Pick TWO combinations below that describe your Christian life:**

- A. Hard-pressed on every side, but not crushed.
- B. Perplexed, but not in despair.
- C. Excited, but under control.
- D. Persecuted, but not abandoned.
- E. Predictable, but not boring.
- F. Struck down, but not destroyed.
- G. Busy, but joyful.
- H. Harassed, and yet at peace.
- I. Other.

**6. When does the grace that reaches people cause thanksgiving in you?**

- A. At a baptism.
- B. Increased church attendance.
- C. Spiritual conversations.
- D. Reaching the community through service activities.
- E. Reaching the community through religious activities.
- F. Reading church news and reports.
- G. Renewal in my own life.
- H. Other.

**7. How does Christ's promise of resurrection affect the risks you take now?**

**8. What do you "see" in your future that makes your current troubles pale in comparison?**

# More, So Much More

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When in your life has your body been the healthiest?

### READ 2 Corinthians 5:1–21.

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#### 1. What's the purpose of an earthly body?

- A. It's just a temporary tent.
- B. It provides a place for our soul to reside on earth.
- C. God originally formed it to last forever.
- D. It gives us an opportunity to graduate to a heavenly body.
- E. The body is part of "the whole" God created—mind, spirit, and body.
- F. Our earthly tent is quite a sight to behold.
- G. A tangible material to experience reality.
- H. Our human bodies remind us of sin and deterioration.
- I. Other.

#### 2. How does the gift of the Holy Spirit guarantee eternal life?

- A. It doesn't.
- B. The Holy Spirit impacts us supernaturally, not just naturally.
- C. This is just Paul's promotional shtick.
- D. God is eternal, so God-in-you makes you eternal.
- E. It's like a booster rocket.
- F. It works like a significant down payment.
- G. Spiritual union with God leads to physical union with God.
- H. It's your ticket to heaven.
- I. Other.

#### 3. What will happen to you when you appear before Christ (vs 10)?

- A. I don't know.
- B. It will be Judgment Day for me (and for everyone else).
- C. I'll be in trouble.
- D. My works will get judged.
- E. My righteousness is based on faith, not on works.
- F. My works testify about Christ (*Matthew 5:16*).
- G. My works are Christ's actions through me (*Ephesians 2:10*).
- H. I won't be judged (*John 5:24*).
- I. Other.

**4. Mark which characteristics of Christ you find appealing to:**

BELIEVERS

NON-BELIEVERS

_____	Jesus is God.	_____
_____	Jesus gives you eternal life.	_____
_____	Live for Jesus instead of yourself.	_____
_____	You can start a new life now.	_____
_____	Live by values most people don't have.	_____
_____	You can connect directly to God.	_____
_____	Share Jesus with others.	_____
_____	Other: _____ .	_____

**5. What happens when someone is “in Christ” (vs 17)?**

- A. The person becomes a new creation.
- B. It's a very emotional experience.
- C. The truth of God is finally understood.
- D. It's like they are living in the Garden of Eden.
- E. That person's body becomes eternal.
- F. Heaven marks them “saved.”
- G. A radical change—a paradigm shift.
- H. A gradual awakening as a child of God.
- I. Other.

**6. What makes you an ambassador for Christ (vs 20)?**

- A. I have good news to share with others.
- B. I have connections with quite a few people.
- C. Christ commissioned me.
- D. I've worked hard to get to this place.
- E. My experience is a testimony about Christ.
- F. I'm no longer a citizen of this world.
- G. I represent Jesus and say what he wants to happen on earth.
- H. Other.

**7. What's an example of a time you “walked by faith, not by sight” (vs 7)?**

**8. How does God's plan of “you and Jesus switching places” (vs 21) impact your life?**

# Now or Later?

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Are you the kind of person who makes decisions quickly or slowly?

### READ 2 Corinthians 6:1–18.

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- 1. What does it mean to receive God's grace in vain (vs 1)?**
  - A. Don't live any differently than before you received it.
  - B. Give yourself to God, but not to others.
  - C. Give up on God over time.
  - D. Be proud and vain about what God has given you.
  - E. Accept God's grace intellectually, but not emotionally.
  - F. Be a stumbling block that stops others from receiving God's grace.
  - G. Not really know what you're getting into when you receive it.
  - H. Become an individual believer, but not involved in a faith community.
  - I. Other.
  
- 2. What makes "now" the time of God's favor (vs 2)?**
  - A. God recently blessed you.
  - B. Jesus had recently come to earth when Paul wrote this.
  - C. It was more true in Paul's day than today.
  - D. It's more true today than it was in Paul's day.
  - E. God will draw the line one day.
  - F. God's favor remains constant—always.
  - G. My life used to be bad, but now it's good.
  - H. God is running out of patience.
  - I. Other.
  
- 3. What makes "now" the day of salvation (vs 2)?**
  - A. There's no time like the present.
  - B. Tomorrow isn't guaranteed for anyone.
  - C. Based on *chapter 5*, it is the obvious statement.
  - D. Evangelists always call for a decision immediately.
  - E. God is always "present tense."
  - F. Salvation was available yesterday, and will be available tomorrow.
  - G. Jesus said the same type of thing many times.
  - H. It's available today (for a limited time only).
  - I. Other.

**4. Put a ✓ by the hardships you've experienced as a Christian:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Beatings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hunger.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Arrest; prison.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hard work.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sleepless nights.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Poverty.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Loss of reputation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers" (vs 14) means:**

- A. Don't marry someone who doesn't believe in God.
- B. Don't marry someone who isn't a Christian.
- C. Don't marry someone from a different Christian denomination.
- D. Don't marry someone from a different culture.
- E. Don't date an unbeliever.
- F. Don't be friends with an unbeliever.
- G. Don't be business associates with an unbeliever.
- H. God has always called people out from the world..
- I. Other.

**6. What does it mean to be God's people (vs 16)?**

- A. God has chosen us.
- B. We have chosen God.
- C. We are separate from unholy people.
- D. God is among us.
- E. We live as aliens on this planet.
- F. Be considered weird by others.
- G. Be considered positive role models by others.
- H. Other.

**7. What happened when you demonstrated Christian love to others, but they didn't show any love in return?**

**8. How are followers of God to beware of unbelievers and still share Christ with them?**

# Godly Sorrow and Encouragement

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Your clothing got a stain; will you clean it, discard it, or keep wearing it?

### READ 2 Corinthians 7:1–16.

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#### 1. How are we to “purify ourselves” completely?

- A. It just takes time.
- B. It requires a lot of tenacity.
- C. Find a new soap that gets rid of all the dirt and stains.
- D. This is an inner cleansing only God can do.
- E. This requires our commitment and perseverance with God.
- F. It’s impossible.
- G. Consistently make God our first love and priority.
- H. Separate from all evil (*1 Cor 6:14-18*).
- I. Other.

#### 2. Why did Paul ask the Corinthians to open their hearts (7:2 and 6:13)?

- A. All Christians should have this posture.
- B. All Christians should have this practice.
- C. Paul came down hard on the Corinthians in his first letter (*1 Cor 5:1*).
- D. Paul sensed a barrier between the Corinthians and himself.
- E. Paul and the Corinthians were on the same team—God’s pure team.
- F. This was Paul’s way of apologizing.
- G. The Corinthians were divided about how to relate to Paul.
- H. Paul wanted to feel some love from the Corinthians.
- I. Other.

#### 3. What was it about the Corinthians that “encouraged” Paul (*vs 4*)?

- A. The relationship they had built over the years.
- B. Their spiritual growth never wavered.
- C. They put into practice Paul’s admonition.
- D. There are ups and downs in all relationships; these were the “ups.”
- E. The positive report Titus delivered to Paul (*vs 6-7*).
- F. Paul had started this church (*Acts 18:1-11*).
- G. Their repentance (*vs 12-13*).
- H. They were co-workers with Paul (*1 Cor 6:1*).
- I. Other.

**4. When has God sent you encouragement?**

- A. Circumstances turned out great for you.
- B. Re-connecting with a long-lost friend.
- C. A direct message from God to you.
- D. A financial boost.
- E. A sense of peace only God can give.
- F. A ruptured relationship recently repaired.
- G. Most sermons I hear encourage me.
- H. Other.

**5. What has “Godly sorrow” produced in you?**

- A. Repentance.
- B. Resistance.
- C. Resentment.
- D. Conversion.
- E. Love—an open heart.
- F. Depression.
- G. Devotion.
- H. Other.

**6. Who have you encouraged?**

- A. Everyone who comes in contact with me.
- B. No one comes to mind.
- C. Family and friends.
- D. My pastor or other church leaders.
- E. People in powerful positions.
- F. Marginalized people.
- G. Individuals I don’t like.
- H. Other.

**7. With whom do you want to “share open hearts”?**

**8. Who gives you encouragement?**

# Giving

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Recount a time when you gave money and experienced great joy.

### READ 2 Corinthians 8:1–24.

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#### 1. When are you likely to be generous?

- A. Always.
- B. Never.
- C. When I have extra.
- D. When things are financially tight for me.
- E. I need to be asked.
- F. In an emergency.
- G. I need to be able to see direct results from my giving.
- H. When I see a need that touches my heart.
- I. Other.

#### 2. Prioritize your giving from 1 to 9:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Tithe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Church budget.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Special church projects.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Christian education.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Missions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community causes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Global needs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Disaster relief.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. What made the Corinthian Church so exceptional (vs 7)?

- A. So much love.
- B. Plentiful spiritual gifts.
- C. Abundant faith.
- D. Financial contributions.
- E. Gifted public speakers.
- F. Titus liked them, and they liked Titus.
- G. Community service.
- H. Exceptional unity.
- I. Other.



**4. Why give your finances to the church?**

- A. God said to “bring all the tithes into the storehouse” (*Malachi 3:10*).
- B. The needs are great.
- C. It benefits me when I give.
- D. That’s part of being a member of the Body of Christ.
- E. I trust God will give me more.
- F. I give where God impresses me to give.
- G. Be God’s answer to the prayers of others.
- H. Other.

**5. What are the riches God has given you?**

- A. Salvation.
- B. A community of believers.
- C. Reconciliation.
- D. Financial blessings.
- E. Forgiveness.
- F. They aren’t financial.
- G. Grace that I pass on freely to others.
- H. Other.

**6. Does your confidence in your church, like Paul’s confidence, include:**

- A. Financial generosity.
- B. Welcoming guest speakers.
- C. Enough food for potluck.
- D. Vetting people for important roles.
- E. A warm reception for visitors.
- F. A few faithful leaders.
- G. Trusting traveling speakers to carry large sums of money you give.
- H. Other.

**7. If “service” is giving out of your resources from your “wants,” and “sacrifice” is giving out of your resources for your “needs,” what’s an example of your service? What’s an example of your sacrifice?**

**8. When have you received instead of giving? What was that like?**

# Investments and Returns

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What are some of the ways you say “thank you” when you receive a gift?

### READ 2 Corinthians 9:1–15.

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**1. Why should the Corinthians give to the Christians in Judea?**

- A. The Corinthians were already planning to give.
- B. The need in drought-stricken Judea and Jerusalem was obvious.
- C. Those in Jerusalem might help the Corinthians later in return.
- D. Paul asked them to give.
- E. The Corinthians had too much money.
- F. Paul hadn't reached his financial goal yet.
- G. The Corinthians were an example to believers in Macedonia.
- H. This would fulfill Paul's boast that the Corinthians would give.
- I. Other.

**2. When it came to fund-raising, Paul was:**

- A. Effective.
- B. Desperate.
- C. Confident.
- D. Manipulative.
- E. Spirit-led.
- F. Guilt-inducing.
- G. Opportunistic.
- H. Playing both sides.
- I. Other

**3. Put a “√” for the amount of seeds you have sown in these categories:**

FEW SEEDS		MANY SEEDS
_____	Family.	_____
_____	Work.	_____
_____	Friends.	_____
_____	Financial planning.	_____
_____	Church.	_____
_____	My relationship with God.	_____
_____	Vacation(s).	_____
_____	Other:_____.	_____

**4. What makes you a “cheerful giver” (vs 7)?**

- A. Deciding in advance how much to give.
- B. Giving from your heart.
- C. Making your donation a gift to God rather than to others or a cause.
- D. Giving to a personally-gratifying cause.
- E. Giving so much that it’s ridiculously laughable.
- F. Practicing it as a lifestyle rather than only an emotional impulse.
- G. When others join so it becomes a community effort.
- H. Other.

**5. What have you given to God that he has turned into a great harvest?**

- A. Talents and skills.
- B. Family.
- C. Friends.
- D. Finances.
- E. Sharing my faith.
- F. Love.
- G. Church.
- H. Other.

**6. For whom do you thank God because they gave significantly to you?**

- A. Parent(s).
- B. My boss/company or my school/teacher(s).
- C. Adventist educator(s).
- D. Sabbath School teacher(s).
- E. My child(ren).
- F. The government.
- G. My church.
- H. Other.

**7. What harvest has God given you in response to the seeds you have sown (vs 6)?**

**8. How does your relationship with God and his people influence your giving? How does your giving influence your relationship with God and his people?**

# Who Told You To Do That?

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## OPENING QUESTION

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As a child, did you listen more to your mom, your dad, or someone else?

### READ 2 Corinthians 10:1–18.

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**1. How can you appeal with the same gentleness and kindness as Christ?**

- A. Talk softly, but carry a big stick.
- B. Make your appeal, but don't go on and on and on about it.
- C. Listen first, and then make your appeal.
- D. Craft your appeal to your specific target.
- E. Appeals always involve some risk.
- F. Don't make it all about you.
- G. Make your appeal just an option.
- H. Do it from a heart of love for others.
- I. Other.

**2. Mark a “✓” by which items are human weapons and which are spiritual:**

HUMAN  
WEAPONS

SPIRITUAL  
WEAPONS

_____	Words.	_____
_____	Actions.	_____
_____	Guns.	_____
_____	Love.	_____
_____	Justice.	_____
_____	Deception.	_____
_____	Hope.	_____
_____	Other: _____.	_____

**3. Why did Paul need to defend his spiritual authority?**

- A. He didn't.
- B. This showed that Paul felt insecure at the time.
- C. Paul was different in person than who he was in his letters.
- D. Some in Corinth questioned Paul's authority; he was gone now.
- E. It seemed like Paul lorded it over the Corinthian Church.
- F. Paul worried the Corinthian Church was going astray.
- G. New leaders in Corinth now had spiritual authority in the church.
- H. Paul had his own ego issues.
- I. Other.

**4. What point was Paul making in *verse 7*?**

- A. People weren't looking at the facts right in front of them.
- B. You shouldn't judge a book by its cover.
- C. What's on the outside shows what's on the inside.
- D. Consider the motives, not only the actions.
- E. Judge not.
- F. Do judge.
- G. Paul's authority came from God.
- H. Other.

**5. Why is it foolish to compare ourselves with others (*vs 12*)?**

- A. It's not foolish; it's natural and it makes good sense.
- B. You only compare things that make you look better.
- C. No two people are the same.
- D. There will always be someone better than you.
- E. There will always be someone worse than you.
- F. It puts relationships on a totem pole instead of around a circle.
- G. It's not what Jesus does.
- H. Other.

**6. What authority has God given you?**

- A. None.
- B. Share the good news (Gospel) of Jesus with others.
- C. Point out evil and sin.
- D. Serve others.
- E. Engage in spiritual warfare.
- F. Assist others in growing as disciples.
- G. Call for revival and reformation.
- H. Other.

**7. What is God calling you to do where you are right now? What is God calling you to do beyond what you're doing now?**

**8. What is something God boasts about or commends in you (*vs 18*)?**

# Believe It Or Not

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What number would you be on a gullibility scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high)?

### **READ 2 Corinthians 11:1–33.**

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**1. Why did Paul feel so responsible for the church in Corinth?**

- A. He started this church.
- B. It remained his favorite church.
- C. Paul made a promise to God they would be pure and spotless.
- D. This church provided financial support for Paul's ministry.
- E. Other spiritual leaders were taking them on a wrong path.
- F. Paul had a possessive spirit and attitude.
- G. God placed this on Paul's heart.
- H. Paul was overly invested in this church.
- I. Other.

**2. What could lead church members away from simple devotion to Christ?**

- A. Nothing.
- B. Deception.
- C. Competing interests.
- D. Persuasive leaders.
- E. New light.
- F. Squabbles with other church members.
- G. Gullibility.
- H. Business and busyness.
- I. Other.

**3. What are "different gospels" compared to the Gospel Paul taught?**

- A. The gospel according to Apollos or Peter or John.
- B. Righteousness by faith.
- C. Righteousness by works.
- D. A charismatic preacher's gospel.
- E. Don't just talk about your religion; live it.
- F. Cheap grace (only believe).
- G. You were born into the family of faith.
- H. Love one another.
- I. Other.

**4. What role did finances play in Paul's relationship to this church?**

- A. It played no role at all.
- B. This was a major point of contention.
- C. Paul owed the Corinthian church money.
- D. The Corinthian church owed Paul money.
- E. The Corinthian church owed Paul their eternal lives.
- F. Money always messes up relationships.
- G. Paul didn't need the Corinthian church's money, but others did.
- H. Other.

**5. What are common ways Satan disguises himself as an angel of light?**

- A. Satan often changes his methods and tactics for greater success.
- B. The same disguises keep working.
- C. Mixing error with truth.
- D. Using the Bible and lots of "God-talk" to push his own agenda.
- E. Working within the church.
- F. Raising lots of questions.
- G. Demonstrating some supernatural power.
- H. Other.

**6. Which ONE of the following commitments means the most to Jesus?**

- A. Going through hardship for the sake of Christ's kingdom.
- B. Consistently donating lots of time and money to the cause.
- C. Loving God.
- D. Loving one another.
- E. Loving those who aren't loveable.
- F. Sharing Jesus with others.
- G. Giving one's life to Christ.
- H. Other.

**7. If you were to honestly boast about all you've done for Jesus, what would be toward the top of your list?**

**8. What more could Jesus do for you that he hasn't already done? What more could you do for Jesus that you haven't already done?**

# The Things I've Seen

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When did you tell someone something and they didn't believe you?

### READ 2 Corinthians 12:1–21.

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#### 1. Who receives visions these days?

- A. Nobody.
- B. Nobody I know.
- C. Unstable people.
- D. Gifted people.
- E. Preachers (including TV preachers).
- F. Artists.
- G. Visionary leaders.
- H. Today's prophets.
- I. Other.

#### 2. Are you more likely to boast about these as strengths or weaknesses:

STRENGTHS

WEAKNESSES

_____	Family/Friends.	_____
_____	Finances.	_____
_____	House/Home.	_____
_____	Church.	_____
_____	My abilities.	_____
_____	Common sense.	_____
_____	Vision(s).	_____
_____	Other: _____.	_____

#### 3. Why did God allow Satan to torment Paul with a “thorn in the flesh”?

- A. That's what Satan does.
- B. That's what God does.
- C. That's how life goes.
- D. This really troubles me.
- E. It wasn't that bad.
- F. To prevent pride from blossoming in Paul.
- G. It's better than a “pain in the neck.”
- H. For Paul's character development.
- I. Other.



**4. Why didn't God remove Paul's "thorn in the flesh"?**

- A. Paul didn't pray enough about it.
- B. Paul wasn't serious enough about his request.
- C. God knew this would keep Paul dependent on Jesus.
- D. This provides a positive example for us.
- E. Removing the thorn would cause more harm than keeping it there.
- F. This could counter Paul's pride in being Christ's apostle.
- G. God couldn't remove it even though Paul prayed for it to be removed.
- H. Other.

**5. What made Paul an apostle? What makes you a Christian?**

- A. God's call.
- B. It's an offer that couldn't be refused.
- C. Seeing or experiencing something supernatural.
- D. Growing up in the faith.
- E. Miracles.
- F. A thorn in the flesh.
- G. Others notice God's actions in you and through you.
- H. Other.

**6. When are you probably not going to like what you walk into?**

- A. Coming home without a welcome.
- B. Finding a family member in a bad situation.
- C. Taking a guest to church and it's not a good church service.
- D. Starting my work day or school day.
- E. A medical emergency.
- F. Someone doesn't live up to my expectations.
- G. An evaluation session.
- H. Other.

**7. What has been a "thorn in the flesh" for you?**

**8. Who is your spiritual parent? To whom are you a spiritual parent?**

# Be Good

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Who is someone you admire or highly respect, but see only occasionally?

### READ 2 Corinthians 13:1–13.

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**1. How often do you need to be warned for you to change your ways?**

- A. Once.
- B. Twice.
- C. At least three times.
- D. I don't need any warning.
- E. I don't change just because I'm warned.
- F. It depends on who warns me.
- G. It depends on the way I'm warned.
- H. I learn from experience, not from warnings.
- I. Other.

**2. Who does Christ speak through to get his message to you?**

- A. A great preacher, such as \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. A spiritual accountability partner.
- C. Someone I know.
- D. Someone I don't know.
- E. The Apostle Paul.
- F. An angelic being.
- G. Christ has to speak directly to me.
- H. Scripture.
- I. Other.

**3. How do you check yourself to see if you really are “in the faith” (vs 5)?**

- A. I don't check myself.
- B. Do some honest reflection and introspection.
- C. Submit to a board of spiritually mature evaluators.
- D. Ask your pastor.
- E. Ask Jesus.
- F. Check the fruits of the Spirit in your life—how mature are they?
- G. What part does trusting God play in your decisions or actions?
- H. I don't question myself about not being in the faith; I'm in!
- I. Other.

**4. Why did Paul not want the Corinthians to do anything wrong (vs 7)?**

- A. That would mean they were sinning.
- B. He had already warned them against this multiple times.
- C. This would hurt them.
- D. This would hurt him.
- E. It makes Christianity weak.
- F. It would give Satan a foothold in their lives.
- G. This would demonstrate that they had passed the test.
- H. Other.

**5. Put a ✓ by what you stand for; put a ✗ by what you oppose.**

I STAND FOR

I OPPOSE

_____	Doctrines.	_____
_____	Lifestyle practices	_____
_____	Correction	_____
_____	Delaying a decision.	_____
_____	Doing things your own way.	_____
_____	Traditions.	_____
_____	Intolerance.	_____
_____	Other: _____.	_____

**6. What final admonition did Paul give these believers?**

- A. Be good.
- B. Don't make me mad.
- C. Repent.
- D. Rejoice.
- E. Get along with each other.
- F. Encourage one another.
- G. Have your offerings ready when I arrive.
- H. Other.

**7. Paul claimed to be weak, and yet powerful like Christ (vs 4). How are you both weak and powerful?**

**8. When have you experienced *verse 14*—the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit?**

