

**RISKING ALL FOR LOVE****Reflecting the Glory of the Lord 2 Corinthians 3:1–18**

*“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” 2 Cor. 3:18*

**Day 1: Read 2 Corinthians 3:1–3.**

1. What’s the purpose of a letter of recommendation (e.g., as part of a job application)? Considering Paul’s role as founder of the Corinthian church, why is it absurd for him to give them letters of recommendation?
2. If the Corinthians are Paul’s letter of recommendation, who is the author of that letter? (vs. 3)
3. If the hearts of the Corinthians have been changed, (vs. 3) who is responsible for the change? (Rom. 15:17–19; 1 Cor. 2:4–5)
4. What do people “read” when they look at your life? In what ways have you changed since you gave your heart to Christ? How has he brought about change in your life?

**Day 2: Read 2 Corinthians 3:4–6.**

5. In verses 5 and 6 Paul speaks of his competence. Here he picks up the thread of what thought? (Hint: Look at the question he poses in 2:16.)
6. On what is Paul’s confidence (and competence) based?
7. How would you evaluate your own efforts to share the Gospel with others? On what do you base your confidence and competence?

**Day 3: Read 2 Corinthians 3:3–18.**

8. The word “covenant” used in the Bible is an agreement initiated by God that binds him to his people. Starting with verse 3 we see a contrast between two covenants—the old and new.

	Old Covenant (Ex. 19, 24)	New Covenant (Heb. 9, 10)
What is the setting of the covenant ratification?	Ex. 19:18	Heb. 9:14–15
Who are the parties involved?	Ex. 19:3–6	Heb. 7:25
Who is the covenant mediator?	Ex. 24:2	Heb. 8:6
Where is the covenant recorded?	Ex. 24:12; 2 Cor. 3:7	Heb. 8:10
What is the purpose of the covenant?	Ex. 19:5–6	Heb. 7:18–19, 25; 8:11–12

9. After God's covenant with Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai, why was there a need for a new covenant? (Heb. 8:7–13; 10:1–4)?
10. Do you think the “failure” of the old covenant took God by surprise? Do you think the new covenant was an afterthought on God's part—a Plan B? (Meditate on Psalm 130—esp. vss. 7–8.)

**Day 4: Read 2 Corinthians 3:3–18.**

11. What features of the old and new covenants does Paul emphasize in 2 Corinthians 3? (Use an NIV version of the Bible to fill in the blanks.)

Verse(s)	Old Covenant	New Covenant
6	covenant of the _____	covenant of the _____
6	The _____ kills	the _____ gives life.
7, 8	ministry that brought _____	ministry of the _____
3, 7	Engraved _____	written on _____
9	ministry that _____ men is _____	ministry that brings _____ is much more _____
7, 8	Came with _____	Came with even more _____
11	_____ fades	_____ lasts
14	To this day the same _____ remains	Only in _____ is it taken away
15, 16	When Moses is read, a _____ covers their hearts	Whenever anyone turns to the _____, the _____ is taken away
13, 18	Made Moses' face _____	We _____ the Lord's _____

**Day 5: Read 2 Corinthians 3:6–18.**

12. Read the account of the shining face of Moses in Exodus 34:29–35. How does Paul interpret and expand upon the image of Moses' shining face here in 2 Corinthians 3?
13. What do you think the image of the veil represents in verses 15–16?
14. Go through the passage once more and note what Paul says about how Christ and the Holy Spirit are at work in the hearts of God's people.
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| Vs. 3  | Vs. 4       |
| Vs. 5  | Vs. 6       |
| Vs. 8  | Vss. 14, 16 |
| Vs. 17 | Vs. 18      |
15. Share a specific way that you have seen the transforming power of God's Spirit at work.