



Letters OF THE Spirit

NOVEMBER 25 - 29 | DISCOVERTHEWORD.ORG

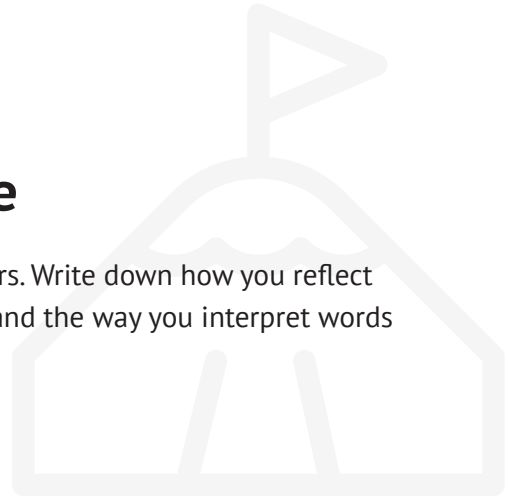
SUMMARY | In this series, the group explores together how the Bible points beyond its own pages to an open letter written by the Spirit of God on human hearts. In conversations about the third chapter of Paul's second New Testament letter to the Corinthians, we see together how Christ writes His own letter of introduction in the lives of His followers. By doing for us what we could never do for ourselves, Jesus gives us a chance to be transformed slowly but surely into His own likeness.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 3:1–3. When Paul speaks of letters of endorsement that are written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, whose reputation and credibility, besides Paul's, were at stake?
2. Paul's two letters to the Corinthians indicate that while many loved him, there were those who challenged his authority, as an outsider, to offer his opinion about their personal and community lives (see 1 Corinthians 4:14–5:5; 2 Corinthians 2:1–11; 7:2–13; 10:1–11:33; 13:1–4). In light of such formidable challenges, what does Paul write in 2 Corinthians 2:17 that indicates a personal spirit and attitude that goes deeper than the words he's writing?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 3:4–6. What does Paul say that expresses his conviction that the words he's writing are grounded not only in his own heart but also in the Spirit of Christ?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 3:7–16 in light of the intriguing "glow" described in Exodus 34:29–35. Note how Paul compares the glory of the good laws of God that expose our personal failures with the surpassing wonder of Christ who gives us His Spirit to do in and through us what moral rules could never do.
5. Read 2 Corinthians 3:17–18. How do words engraved in stone or written in ink (3:3), help us see the need for what the Spirit of Christ is writing in our hearts (described as love in 1 Corinthians 13; Romans 13:8–10; James 2:8)?

Challenge

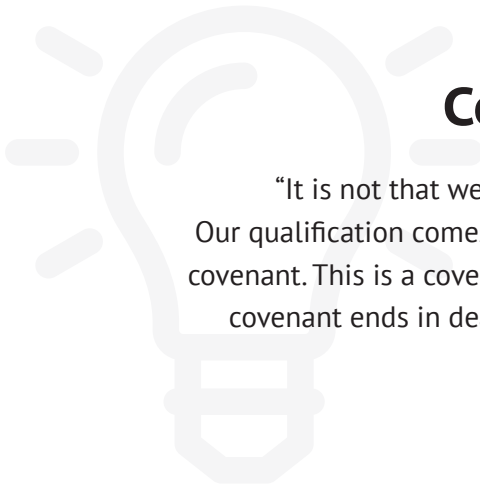
Think about the letter your life presents to others. Write down how you reflect the heart and Spirit of Christ in the way you talk and the way you interpret words of Scripture.



Commit To Memory

“It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life” .

2 Corinthians 3:5–6 NLT



Prayer

Father, please fill us, lead us, inspire us, and enable us to be read by others as letters of life, hope, and goodness written in our hearts by Your Spirit—
in the name of Your Son.

Amen.

