

# **COMPETENT MINISTERS OF THE SPIRIT**

**2 Corinthians 3:4-6**

# Rethinking Your Abilities in Christ

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 2:12-6:13. Paul's **confidence**:
  - Of their sincerity and commission from God
  - Of the credibility of their ministry and message
    - 2 Corinthians 2:17-3:6, 4:1-2
  - Their = us, we, including you, the church
  - **We Christians are all a new creation**
    - Ministers of reconciliation,
    - Ambassadors for Christ
    - The righteousness of God
    - **Working together with him** (2 Corinthians 5:16-6:1)

# What Is That In Your Hand?

- ❖ Exodus 3-4. God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and made him his minister
  - God would work through Moses to free his people
  - Moses was afraid and kept making excuses
  - **GOD GAVE MOSES ASSURANCE OF HIS PRESENCE TO GIVE HIM CONFIDENCE** (See Exodus 4)
    - Moses was a shepherd and the staff was his tool
    - **God used the staff of Moses in his hand**
    - God used Aaron, Moses' brother, to help him

# Our Sufficiency Comes From God

❖ 2 Corinthians 3:1-6. Today God still helps and backs up the ministers of His new covenant.

➤ God was with Moses and God is with us.

➤ Believe it! **Our ministry is greater** than the ministry of Moses and Israel.

▪ The Letter of the Law of Moses is a ministry of death not life because the letter kills. Why? It's insufficient as a tool or staff of God in the hands of his ministers.

▪ **In contrast the ministry of the Spirit is the tool or staff of God in our hearts that enables us to give life.**

# You Are Letters From Christ

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 3:1-6. Results bolster boldness
  - **The ministry of the Spirit gets results that can be read by everyone.**
    - Not a boast in godless human pride and wisdom
  - The result is what can be read in the lives of the people of Christ who are letters of Christ.
    - Christians are letters of recommendation making others want to hear more and become Christians too.
    - **The source of the results is the Spirit and the Spirit is the ink or writing upon our hearts.**

# The Writing on Your Hearts

- ❖ The Holy Spirit inspired all scripture: Old Testament and New Testament
  - Both are writings in letters and words which are the word of God because God gave them.
  - Yet the Old Covenant is by letter to distinguish its lack of effectiveness from the effectiveness of the New Covenant which is by the Spirit – the better staff or tool for the job.
  - **This distinctive emphasis that the New Testament is more than letter because it describes the new way of the Spirit of Christ in our hearts.**
- ❖ **Challenge:** To build our resume testifying to God by pursuing transformation in His image by the Spirit of the Lord Christ.