

REDEEMER

# Power in weakness

2 CORINTHIANS

## 2 Corinthians 13

*"Your restoration is what we pray for."*

**"Restoration and hope are available  
each time you return to God."  
- Jim George**




### 2 Corinthians 13:1-14:


This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them— ...

since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God. ...


Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. ...



But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. ...



For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. ...



Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



### 3 Thoughts on Restoration:

1. What to know about restoration that is challenging and hard
2. What to do when struggling with restoration
3. What to remember while pursuing restoration



### 3 Thoughts on Restoration:

#### **1. What to know about restoration that is challenging and hard:**

**It entails firm engagement that must be rooted in the gospel.**



### **Firm Engagement...**

Verses 1-2: This is the third time I am coming to you. Every charge must be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them—

**Firm Engagement...rooted in the GOSPEL**

Verses 3-4: ...since you seek proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

*"I'm really struggling with the Apostle Paul's discipline...what about God's love?"*

Love and discipline are not contradictory.

*"Redemptive pain that protects from destructive pain"*

*"I've been really hurt and crushed by harsh correction. Is this what the Apostle Paul is doing?"*

The goal is to build up not tear down.

Verse 10: For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me **for building up and not for tearing down.**

*"I don't want to engage but would rather avoid..."*

*"The work of restoration cannot begin until a problem is fully faced."*

- Dan B. Allender

### 3 Thoughts on Restoration:

1. What to know about restoration that is challenging and hard

**2. What to do when struggling with restoration:**

**"Examine yourselves"**

Verses 5-8: **Examine yourselves**, to see whether you are in the faith. **Test yourselves**. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. ...

But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

### Scripture calls for self examination:

Psalm 26:2: Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

Lamentations 3:40: Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:28: Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

### How to test ourselves:

Ask, "Is Jesus in me?" (verse 5)

Matthew 28:19-20, Galatians 2:20



*How do I know if Jesus is in me?*

If Jesus is in me, there will be...

**a) Repentance**



Repentance as **conviction of sin** before God (Psalm 51)

Repentance as **running to Jesus** (Luke 5 Peter vs John 21 Peter)...



**Jesus is the kind of Savior whom you want to run towards, not run away from.**




*How do I know if Jesus is in me?*

If Jesus is in me, there will be...

a) Repentance

**b) A passion for God's glory that you care most about**



*With restoration, have you ever tweaked the truth in order to look better than you are? Have you ever been afraid to confront someone because you don't want that person to be upset at you?*

Why do we do that? Because we are more concerned about our approval than anything else.




*How do I know if Jesus is in me?*

If Jesus is in me, there will be...

a) Repentance

b) A passion for God's glory that you care most about

**c) Love for others**



2 Corinthians 12:19b: "It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ, and all for your upbuilding, beloved."




### 3 Thoughts on Restoration:

1. What to know about restoration that is challenging and hard
2. What to do when struggling with restoration
- 3. What to remember while pursuing restoration**



What to remember while pursuing restoration:

**1) (in the gospel) Rejoice and the "one-anothers."**



Verses 11-13: Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.



What to remember while pursuing restoration:

1) Rejoice and the "one-anothers"

**2) (in the gospel) Keep praying.**

"Your restoration is what we pray for."




What to remember while pursuing restoration:

1) Rejoice and the "one-anothers."

2) Keep praying.

**3) Let's God's benediction encourage and keep you.**



**Verse 14: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**