

ABLE MINISTERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

II Cor. 3:6,8

(2 Cor 3:6 KJV) Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. (2 Cor 3:8 KJV) How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

1. MINISTRATION OF THE SPIRIT VS. MINISTRATION OF DEATH.

1. (2 Cor 3:7 KJV) But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: (2 Cor 3:8 KJV) How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? (2 Cor 3:9 KJV) For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. (2 Cor 3:10 KJV) For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. (2 Cor 3:11 KJV) For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.

2. ABLE MINISTERS OF NEW TESTAMENT (II Cor. 3:6)

1. Not of the letter (which kills) - (2 Cor 3:6 KJV) Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.
 1. Legalism
 2. Harshness; condemnation; critical attitude
 3. Using the Word to hammer someone or to destroy them
 4. Pharisaism - using the letter, not the spirit
2. But of the spirit (which gives life)

3. To be able ministers of the New Testament, must be ministers of spirit

3. DOES WHAT I MINISTER BRING LIFE OR DEATH?

1. Spirit brings liberty

1. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (2 Cor 3:17 KJV) Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2. *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...* (Isa 61:1 KJV) The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

3. (Isa 61:2 KJV) To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

4. (Isa 61:3 KJV) To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

5. To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion

1. To give unto them beauty for ashes

2. The oil of joy for mourning

3. The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness

6. Creation to be set free (Rom. 8)

7. *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."* (Gal. 5:1)

2. Spirit gives life

1. *"Words I speak are spirit and life..."* (John 6:63)
2. Spirit quickens or gives life. (Rom 8:10 KJV) And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
3. Spirit quickens mortal body. (Rom 8:11 KJV) But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

3. Spirit gives light or illumination

1. "Seeing we have this ministry..." (2 Cor 4:1 KJV) Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; (2 Cor 4:2 KJV) But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. (2 Cor 4:3 KJV) But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:
 1. Renounced hidden things of dishonesty
 2. Not handling Word of God deceitfully
 3. This ministry is one of light
2. That which makes manifest is light. (Eph 5:13 KJV) But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.
 1. Light expels darkness
 2. Man of sin or Wicked to be destroyed by brightness of coming of the Lord. (2 Th 2:8 KJV) And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

3. Darkness must be manifested first
4. You are the light of the world. (Mat 5:14 KJV) Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.
3. II Cor. 4:6 - *"For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*
4. Col. 1:12-13 - *"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:..."*
5. Light represents the spirit of revelation and enlightenment (Eph. 3:17-18) - *"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints..."*
4. Spirit changes us from glory to glory (II Co. 3:18) - *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."*