

The Breakthrough!

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II Corinthians 4:1-6 ¹Therefore, since God in His mercy has given us this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²Instead, we have renounced secret and shameful ways. We do not practice deceit, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by open proclamation of the truth, we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

A. Paul begins by referring to the previous passage in which he **compares** the Old Covenant with the New Covenant. V. 1

II Corinthians 3:7-9 Now if the ministry of ***death***, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at the face of Moses because of its fleeting glory, will not the ministry of the ***Spirit*** be even more glorious? For if the ministry of ***condemnation*** was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry of ***righteousness***!

B. We are to **resist** discouragement because this only happens when we let sin get us off topic. V. 2a We must renounce this!

C. We must openly proclaim the **truth** of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. V. 2b

D. Our spiritual enemy has **blinded** the unbelieving so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel. V. 3-4

E. Our focus must stay on **Jesus Christ**. When we do this the Gospel breaks through the blindness of those around us. V.5-6

II. How can we apply these truths?

A. We must evaluate our **beliefs** to determine which covenant are we following.

B. We must evaluate our level of **excitement** about sharing the Gospel with others.

C. We must evaluate our **relationship** to guilt/shame and conviction. One is from God, the other is not.

D. We must evaluate our level of being **servants** of Jesus Christ.