



2 COR. 12:9: *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*

I. BACKGROUND



II. PURPOSES

- To address **public conduct** of the Corinthians
- To respond to **personal criticism** against Paul
- To express **practical concern** for believers in Jerusalem

III. THEMES OF 2 CORINTHIANS

A. Kingdom Apostles Display God's Power in Weakness

- *Critiques of Paul:*
 - Paul was **fickle** (1:17)
 - Paul was **harsh** (2:7-8)
 - Paul lacked **credentials** (3:1-2)
- *Characteristics of true Kingdom ministry:*
 1. The glory of Kingdom ministry = **The Gospel** (2:14-17)



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2. The power for Kingdom ministry = **God's grace** (3:4-6)

 3. The focus of Kingdom ministry = **Jesus Christ** (4:5-6)

 4. The concern of Kingdom ministry = **The heart** (4:16-18)

 5. The agent of Kingdom ministry = **God** (5:20-21)

 6. The result of Kingdom ministry = **Changed lives** (6:14, 7:1)
- *Chapters 10-12: Weak Apostles Vs. "Super-Apostles"*
- B. Kingdom Citizens Display God's Generosity in Weakness**
- *Give sacrificially, like Jesus (8:9)*



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- *Give generously, like the Macedonians (8:2-4)*

 - *Give cheerfully, relying on God's grace (9:7-9)*

C. Kingdom Churches Display God's Grace in Weakness

- *A passion for weakness (12:8-10)*

- *A passion for the Gospel (5:14-15, 18-21)*

- *A passion for repentance (7:8-13)*



Outline of II Corinthians

- I. Greeting & Thanksgiving (1:1-11)
- II. Defense of Apostleship: Answering the Critics' Charges (1:12–7:16)
 - A. The Defense of Paul's Conduct (1:12–2:13)
 - 1. Explanation of Altered Plans (1:12–2:4)
 - 2. The Forgiveness of the Offending Brother (2:5-11)
 - 3. Missing Titus in Troas (2:12-13)
 - B. The Nature of a True Apostleship (2:14–7:16)
 - 1. The Glory of the Ministry (2:14–4:6)
 - 2. The Frailty of the Ministers (4:7–5:10)
 - 3. The Message of Reconciliation (5:11–6:10)
 - 4. Paul's Appeal to the Corinthians (6:11–7:4)
 - 5. Meeting Titus in Macedonia (7:5-16)
- III. Exhortation to Give: Collection for Believers in Jerusalem (8:1–9:15)
 - A. The Necessity for Generosity (8:1-15)
 - B. The Mission of Titus to Corinth (8:16–9:5)
 - C. The Results of Generosity (9:6-15)
- IV. Affirmation of Apostolic Authority (10:1–13:10)
 - A. In Spite of an Unimpressive Appearance (10:1-11)
 - B. Boasting Only in the Lord (10:12-18)
 - C. Vindication of Authenticity of Paul's Apostleship (11:1–12:13)
 - D. The Planned Third Visit (12:14–13:10)
- V. Final Exhortation and Greetings (13:11-14)