



20 Takeaways from 20 Years of *Revive Our Hearts* Ministry

Observations from Second Corinthians

1. Ministry is a gift—a stewardship—entrusted to us by God. (vv. 5:18–19)
2. We are weak, but Christ is strong. Our weakness showcases His strength. (vv. 3:5–6; 12:9–10)
3. Ministry is hard—sometimes overwhelmingly hard. (vv. 1:5–9; 6:4–10; 11:23–29)
4. God’s grace is sufficient for us in every circumstance and situation. (v. 12:9)
5. God’s nature is to encourage us in every challenge we face: He is the “Father of mercies and God of *all comfort*” and He “comforts us in *all our affliction*.” (vv. 1:3–4)
6. Our trials are purposeful and for the sake of others, making us more compassionate and more effective at ministering to those who are suffering, so they can persevere. (vv. 1:4–5)
7. The gospel is a great treasure. As “clay pots” we are merely containers of that treasure. (v. 4:7)
8. Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers to keep them from being able to see the glory of Christ. (vv. 4:3–4)
9. God is able to speak light into the darkest places. (v. 4:6)
10. We are servants—of Christ and of others. (vv. 4:4–5, 15)
11. We don’t market the Word for profit, but speak with sincerity and a clear conscience before God and others. (vv. 2:17; 4:2; 7:2)
12. Sometimes we have to grieve people in order to help them. (vv. 7:8–9; 13:2)
13. We cannot give up on immature or sinning believers. Paul calls the Corinthians “*saints . . . my children . . . dear friends . . . brothers and sisters*.” (vv. 1:1; 6:13; 7:1; 8:1)
14. God gives us like-hearted friends to labor with us. (vv. 7:5–6)
15. Generous believers help to make the ministry possible. (vv. 8:3–4; 11:9)
16. Changed lives are the fruit and reward of our labors. (vv. 3:2–3)
17. We are “wedding coordinators”—helping the Bride get ready for the Wedding. (v. 11:2)
18. Our ultimate aim is the glory of God and to be pleasing to Him. (vv. 4:15; 5:9)
19. We will all appear before Christ to give account for our lives and service. (v. 5:10)
20. Giving up is not an option. Keeping our eyes fixed on eternity will sustain us through trials. (vv. 4:1, 16)

Therefore, since we have this ministry because we were shown mercy, we do not give up.

For we are not proclaiming ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord,
and ourselves as your servants for Jesus's sake. For God who said, "Let light shine out of
darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God's glory
in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:1, 5-6



Take It Home, Make It Personal

Reflection Prompts

1. When you read through this list, which takeaways stand out to you? Why?
2. What are some ways God has shown you His strength in your weakness?
3. Who has come alongside you and supported you as you've served the Lord? Stop and thank God for how He has used them to encourage you.
4. Prayerfully ask God to reveal your motives for ministry, and ask Him to help you focus your heart on fulfilling His ultimate purposes.
5. We will all appear before Christ to give account for our lives and service: what do you want your legacy to be?

