

# The Book of 2 Corinthians

## 2 Corinthians 6:9-10

### Session 65 Notetaker: Concluding Truths, pt. 6

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## **The Book of 2 Corinthians**

### **2 Corinthians 6:9-10**

Today you are going to learn how the small, everyday moments of your life are preparing you for the greatest moments of your life.

#### Preparatory Prayer:

*Father, thank You for the privilege of opening Your word, and allowing the doctrine to work in our inner man. As we look at the life of David, help us to see that what You prepare in private is what later becomes useful in public. Teach us to not measure ourselves by outward appearance, reputation, ability, or recognition, but by the work Your word is doing in the hidden man of the heart.*

*Father, we pray to understand that the ordinary moments of life, the unseen battles, the daily disciplines, the pressures, the irritations, the sufferings, and the opportunities to respond in godliness are all part of our preparation as sons and daughters. May we not despise the small things, but learn to use them as training grounds for patience, endurance, holiness, ministry, and conformity to Christ.*

*May we see the wisdom of engaging with Your word every day. As we commit ourselves to read, study, meditate, memorize, pray, and live the doctrine consistently, let the truth we study not remain information only, but become the formation of Christ in us; shaping our thoughts, correcting our responses, strengthening our endurance, and preparing us for the glory You intend to reveal through us in the heavenly places.*

*We ask that this lesson would not simply inform our minds, but stir us to private faithfulness, daily consistency, and a greater willingness to let Christ live His life in and through us. In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.*

## The Book of 2 Corinthians

### 2 Corinthians 6:9-10

#### Session 65: Concluding Truths, pt. 6

In this session we are going to do three things.

First, we are going to look at David's private preparation before his public usefulness. Before David ever stood before Goliath, before he sat on the throne, and before Israel knew him as their greatest king, God was forming him in the unseen places of life.

Second, we are going to take that principle and apply it to our own sonship life, especially to the unseen spiritual work of the doctrine in our inner man. The daily work of reading, studying, meditating, memorizing, praying, and living the word is where real preparation takes place.

And third, we are going to establish a practical process for engaging with the word every day, even when the day has gotten away from us and all we have left is a few minutes.

The point is this: public usefulness is never disconnected from private faithfulness. What God prepares in secret is what He later puts on display, whether in ministry, in suffering, in endurance, or in the glory we will reveal in the heavenly places.

We will see this very thing happening in the life of the apostle Paul as he deals with the sufferings of Christ.

2 Corinthians 6:4 But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience...

2 Corinthians 6:9 **As unknown, and yet well known**; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

In our previous session we were talking about Paul's credentials. Paul comes into a place and he is "unknown." He carries no letters of recommendation. The point to this is that his sonship life, the display of the doctrine working in him, is what ultimately commends him to his audience as it stands out in bold relief against the

standard way people are living their lives. The way he handles the difficulties of life and the attacks against him are seen by all, and it makes an impact.

Much of the Christian world has adopted the world's thinking. It assumes the power to draw an audience lies in impressive buildings, displays of wealth, or distinctive architecture.

Others believe the speaker's notoriety is the key: whether he is famous, educated, or a skilled orator. While none of those qualities are inherently wrong, none are necessary to minister the word effectively.

Let me give you an example from the life of David. I am taking it for granted that we all know about the major events of David's life. If you do not, I apologize in advance for not explaining them in this lesson.

We know about the great accomplishments of David, that he became the greatest king the nation of Israel ever had. He defeated all of Israel's enemies, including the giant, Goliath. But how did David become that great king, how did he defeat the giant when he was but a youth? Few people think about the backstory of what it takes to be "great" when the opportunity presents itself.

Let's go back to the land of Israel during the time of Samuel, the prophet, around 1040 BC.

The biblical period of the Judges spans about 450 years, from the death of Joshua until the united monarchy under Saul, concluding with the prophetic ministry of Samuel.

Israel had wanted a king and God had given them Saul, a man who was a head taller than anyone else in Israel. He looked just like what a king would be thought to look like: broad shouldered, tall and handsome: the kind of man who walks into a room and the room goes silent. This was a man who looked the part, and Israel thought he was a man the nations around them would respect.

But, far from the palace, in the quiet hills of a small town called Bethlehem, there was a boy whom no one was looking at. David was the youngest among eight brothers. He was so young and unimportant that when a prophet came to his

father's house looking for a king, his father did not even think to call him in from the fields.

David spent his days alone, with a flock of sheep, a sling, a staff and a harp. He spent his days singing songs to God, fighting off a lion and a bear with a staff and his bare hands to protect his father's flock. No one in Israel knew his name, and no one was watching him; no one except God.

And that is when the real work gets done, when no one is watching. It is the spiritual battles you fight when no one is watching that prepares you for what is coming. It is the spiritual disciplines you consistently practice that make you into who you will become. Keep that in mind.

While the nation looked at the tall man in the palace, God was looking at the boy on the hill. And God spoke to His prophet about the way people have mistakenly measured one another down through time.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

People continue to make the same mistake. People look at the outside: the face, the height, the strength, the appearance, but God looks at the heart. David would grow up to do the impossible. He would face a giant that an entire army was too afraid to fight, and David would bring him down with a sling and a stone.

But David's faith, which carried him to victory against the giant, was developed privately, on the hillside. David's faith in God was expressed by the songs he wrote and sang when no one but God was listening.

We should not concern ourselves with how people view us from the outward man, but rather by what is going on in us. As Peter said to the little flock, "let it be the hidden man of the heart." That is our credentials, and that will be the power by which others are affected by us.

David would unite a fractured nation and turn it into a kingdom. And in spite of David's failure and fall into such sin that it split his family apart, God would give him a title He gave to no one else; "a man after God's own heart." This speaks to the relationship that David had with God.

Acts 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, **a man after mine own heart**, which shall fulfil all my will.

This became true for David before he defeated the enemies of Israel, before He became king, and before he killed Goliath. David was a man after God's own heart as a youth. David cultivated this when he was alone in hills outside of Bethlehem, in tough times (protecting his flock from predators) and in easier times (when he was composing and singing songs of praise to God).

When Goliath defied the armies of the living God, David was just a youth watching the sheep. We all know the story of David and Goliath, but what we may not think about is this: David's whole background was preparing him for the big moments of this life. His everyday existence on the hillsides prepared him for his encounter with Goliath, for becoming king of Israel, and for defeating all of Israel's enemies.

Look at what David says to Saul as he prepares to meet the giant.

1 Samuel 17:34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:  
<sup>35</sup> And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered *it* out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught *him* by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. <sup>36</sup> Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. <sup>37</sup> David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

When David says this to Saul, he was not boasting in his own strength, but in the strength of His God; he was testifying to God's faithfulness. David looked at the giant through the lens of every battle God had brought him through as a shepherd. His encounter with the lion had taught David something. His encounter with the bear had taught him something. Every victory on that hillside, every time God had shown up when no one was watching, God was building a track record of faithfulness that David would stand on as he faced this giant.

Here is the point: David was not facing Goliath as an untested beginner. He was facing Goliath as a veteran of scores of unseen battles and encounters in which God had never once failed him.

And that is the point I am making. Let's make an application: the unseen spiritual battles, the spiritual work in the doctrine that has been taking place within us on a day-by-day basis, the reading, the studying, the meditating, the memorization, the praying, the living, the changes that confirm that we are being transformed - conformed to the image of Christ - are not happening in the big public moments, but in the small, every day, seemingly insignificant, private moments when no one but God is watching.

The power of God, our sonship life, doesn't begin when people are watching; it begins when it is just us and God.

Much of the Christian world has adopted the world's thinking. It assumes that the power to draw an audience lies in impressive buildings, displays of wealth, degrees of education or oratory skills, but such is not the case. The power to change lives is by God's grace working in us, not just on Sundays or Tuesdays when we have our Bible study sessions; but on a daily basis all during the week.

### **Application for Preachers:**

Private Faithfulness Before Public Usefulness

Earthly Faithfulness Before Heavenly Usefulness

The lesson for the reader is clear: no one should expect to be effective in public ministry, public leadership, or public testimony, if the doctrine has not first done its work in their private life. Paul's public endurance under defamation, suffering,

poverty, and sorrow, was not produced in that moment of pressure; it was the visible result of the doctrine already formed within him.

But here is the other side of the coin. Our ability to bring glory to God in the heavenly places throughout eternity will be in direct proportion to the work which the doctrine has done in our inner man while we are on Earth.

That “exceeding and eternal weight of glory” is due to Christ’s work in us. He gets the credit for our glory. But that glory will not come automatically. It will be a result of the work done in our inner man; much of which will be produced in times of adversity and suffering.

And, as Romans 8:18 says, there will be a glory revealed in us which will cause our sufferings to pale in comparison to such a degree that the sufferings are not worthy to be compared.

This is the same principle seen in David. Before he stood before Goliath, he had already learned to trust God in the fields. Before Israel saw his courage before the giant, God had cultivated it in private. The lion and the bear were not unrelated to David’s calling; they were training grounds for it. These are things which prepared David to be Israel’s greatest king.

The problems you have at work, the issues you have with family members, enduring the attacks against you, the time of plenty and the times of lack, the sufferings of this present time and the sufferings of Christ, the criticisms of your friends and the disparagements of your enemies, are your training ground, and the sooner you see them that way, the better.

These are the things which will prepare you for your work in the heavenly places.

The small frustrations of life, the inconveniences, life’s little irritations, these are not unrelated to our calling: they are the “check engine” light for our sonship life. These things, while they are not being orchestrated by God, are the things which we should be using to prepare us to be the sons and daughters we ought to be.

Just as all of David’s life was a preparation for what He would do as king, all our life is a preparation for how we will live as sons.



Just as all of David's earthly life was a preparation for what he will do in the future millennial kingdom, so all of our earthly sonship life is a preparation for what we will do in the heavenly places.

The same is true for every saint who wishes to be used of God. The private disciplines of reading, studying, meditating, memorizing, praying and applying (living) the word are not optional preparations: they are the necessary disciplines which allow the Lord Jesus Christ to live His life in and through us. The adversities and sufferings we endure are not for nothing, they are the furnace in which our sonship life is being forged. We must change the way we view adversity, inconveniences, irritations, offences, trials, tribulations, and sufferings of all kinds whether they are large or small.

When we catch ourselves sighing or rolling our eyes or groaning over some issue, stop. Have a protocol in place you can default to. Make it a verse you quote, make it a prayer you pray, make it a thought you think, make it something you say; and whichever one it is, make it line up with the doctrine.

Pick a verse, a doctrine or a principle and engage with it over the next week or two or three. Stick with it until it begins to work in you; until you can see the difference in your thinking and behavior. Set a goal you can achieve every day. Read the verse in the morning and evening.

And when you find yourself getting caught unexpectedly in a circumstance in which you respond by your flesh, then immediately stop. Instead, 1) quote a verse that you have memorized for just such an occasion, 2) pray a prayer you have prepared for such a time as this, and 3) make an affirmation of godliness which you have already created.

By the way, it means you need to prepare these ahead of time.

Set a time to study the verse and follow through. Ask questions about the doctrine you are studying – think about it, meditate on it. Turn it into a prayer. Do a self-evaluation. Keep a journal.

What are we doing? This is the spiritual work that we are going to take with us into eternity; our edification.

Therefore, the question is not merely whether we can speak truth, defend doctrine, or appear faithful when others are watching. The deeper question is whether the truth is shaping our thoughts, habits, reactions, and affections when no one is watching. The real power to affect/edify others comes from our being affected/edified by the doctrine.

If the doctrine is not governing us in the ordinary pressures of our everyday life, it will not suddenly govern us under the extraordinary pressures of life. The Believer who wishes to stand with patience under accusation, remain steady under suffering, rejoice in sorrow, and “enrich others while having little,” must first submit to the daily work of the doctrine in his inner man.

This calls for honest self-examination. Am I doing the spiritual work in secret that will sustain me when I am tested openly? Am I allowing the word to correct my motives, produce a patience to endure, humble my pride, and form Christ in me? If not, then the issue is not the size of the public opportunity, but the lack of private preparation.

The Believer must therefore give attention to the places which are not seen by others: the prayer closet, the study desk, the quiet meditation of the heart, the private victory over the flesh, and the daily obedience no one applauds: these are where God prepares a person for visible usefulness.

Let me talk to the preachers again for a moment: The stage does not make the minister; it reveals the man whom doctrine has (or has not) already formed.

So here is the final application. This is not just about what happens during our lifetime. It is about what glory to God we will reveal in the heavenly places. No matter how much information we know, and no matter how many people know us, the position we hold in the heavenly places will be the direct result of the edifying work of the word of God in us while we were on Earth.

I am saying all of this to say that our engagement with the doctrine is something we have to work into every day of our lives. Why? Because the key is consistency. Therefore, if you are reading, then read every day, read morning and evening, try

to make that the minimum. Practice reading carefully, noticing the words, and thinking about them.

Even if it is just a little effort, make that effort every day. For example, if you are in the “study” stage of engaging with a verse or passage, and your day has been overwhelmed by events and you have not studied, and now it is bedtime, take three minutes and study what you can in those three minutes. Why? Because you are building a habit of engaging with the word every day; you are making the process a part of your life. What can you do in those three minutes?

Here are several things a person can meaningfully do in **three minutes** with a verse they have been reading and studying:

**1. Read the verse slowly twice**

Do not rush. Read it once to hear the words, then again to notice what stands out.

**2. Identify one key word or phrase**

*Ask: What word carries the weight of the verse? What phrase am I supposed to think about?*

**3. Ask one simple study question**

For example:

- What does this verse say about God?
- What does this verse say about my thinking?
- What does this verse correct in me?
- What doctrine or principle is being taught here?

**4. State the verse in your own words**

Briefly paraphrase it: *“This verse is teaching me that...”*

**5. Connect it to your day**

*Ask: Where did I need this verse today? Where could this have governed my thoughts, attitude, or reaction?*

## 6. Turn it into a short prayer

For example: *“Father, let this truth work in me. Teach me to think this way, and let this doctrine correct my response.”*

## 7. Choose one thought to carry into tomorrow

End with one sentence: *“Tomorrow, I want this verse to shape the way I respond to...”*

A simple **three-minute pattern** could be:

- **1 minute:** Read the verse slowly and carefully.
- **1 minute:** Ask one question and identify one key thought.
- **1 minute:** Pray the verse back to God and decide how to carry it into tomorrow.

The point is not to complete a full study session in three minutes. The point is to **keep the daily engagement alive**. Every time you remain consistent, you are casting a “vote” for the kind of son or daughter you want to be. So, I am asking you to run for office; the office of being a son or daughter who is actively growing their edification. So, vote for yourself.

Lastly, what if you do miss a day? Instead of beating yourself up over it, take a step of action by making yourself a rule: Do not miss twice in a row. If you miss once, then the next day you put your engagement with the Scripture at the very top of your list. Remember those three commitments to Sonship?

## **Honest Attendance – Top Priority – Interactive Learning**

### Closing Prayer:

*Father, we thank You for the time we have had in Your word and for the doctrine that is set before us. We understand that public usefulness is formed by private faithfulness, and that the work You do in the hidden man of the heart is what prepares us to stand, endure, minister, and glorify You.*

*Father, we pray to stop despising the small places, the ordinary pressures, the unseen battles, and the daily disciplines that no one else sees. Help us to view our irritations, sufferings, disappointments, responsibilities, and temptations as*

*training grounds for our sonship life. May we learn to respond with doctrine instead of the flesh, with patience instead of frustration, with prayer instead of complaint, and with faith instead of unbelief.*

*We pray to have a greater commitment to engage with Your word every day; to read carefully, study honestly, meditate deeply, memorize faithfully, pray sincerely, and live the truth consistently. And when the day has gotten away from us, we will not quit, but we will take even a few minutes to keep the habit of daily engagement alive.*

*Father, let the truth not merely pass through our minds, but take root in us and form Christ in us. Prepare us now for usefulness in ministry, endurance in suffering, faithfulness in private, and the greater glory You intend to reveal through us in the heavenly places.*

*We ask that You would strengthen us to be sons and daughters who are taking our edification seriously, who are voting each day for the kind of people we want to become, and who are learning to let Christ live His life in and through us. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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If you are reading / watching this session, do you know you can join us live on Zoom? We publish session notes and note-takers that allow you to interact with the lesson. You can request these resources or inquire about how to join us live on Sundays or Tuesdays by contacting us by phone at (888) 605-3202, or email [staff@mbiworldwide.org](mailto:staff@mbiworldwide.org).

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If you are not sure about where you will spend eternity, we care about you and we want you to have eternal life. Scan the QR code below to watch a short video that will explain how you can have salvation through Jesus Christ.



**The Most Important Decision**