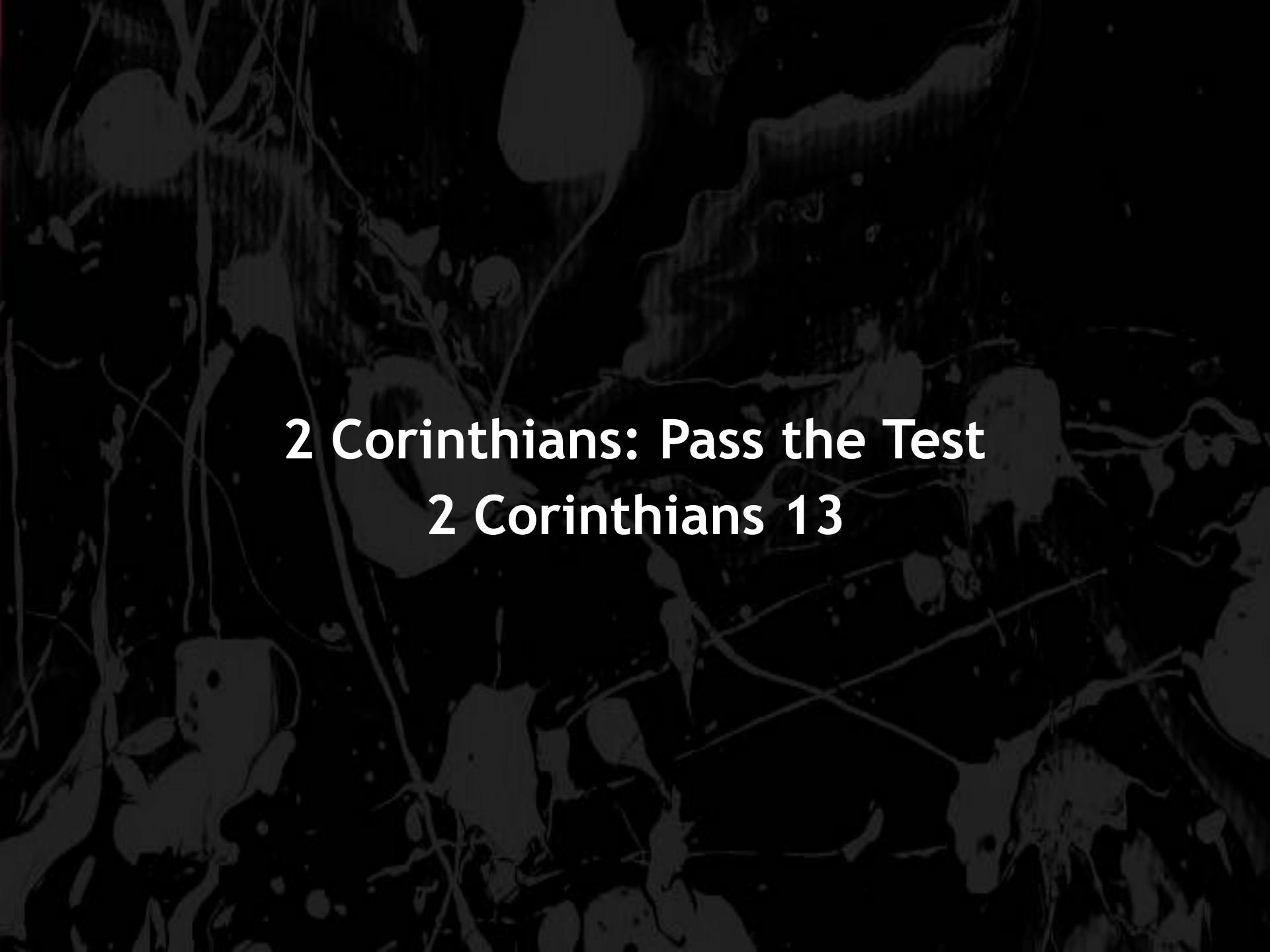


GLORY IN THE

POWER + GOSPEL

IN WEAKNESS

2 CORINTHIANS



2 Corinthians: Pass the Test

2 Corinthians 13

2 Corinthians 13:1-4

1 This is the third time I am coming to you. EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES. 2 I have previously said when present the second time, and though now absent I say in advance to those who have sinned in the past and to all the rest as well, that if I come again I will not spare anyone,

2 Corinthians 13:1-4

3 since you are seeking for proof of the Christ who speaks in me, and who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you.

4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you.

Paul will come back to correct and discipline

- He wants them to live in the power of the Gospel, not empty boasting.
- Power for overcoming spiritual living that results in humility and self-sacrifice
- How can we change if we are not living in the recreating power of the Gospel?

2 Corinthians 13:5

Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith;
examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about
yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you--unless indeed
you fail the test?

What is this test?

1- Are you saved or not?

2- Are you walking in a ferocious determination with Christ?

This kind of self-evaluation is exactly what must happen if we aren't going to live in self-assurance

We are not going to compare ourselves to:

- Others
- The past
- Failures/sins
- Perfection

Who is supposed to take this test?

**Everyone who thinks they are a Christian and
they really are.**

**Everyone who thinks they are a Christian, but they are
fooling themselves.**

What is the “faith” they are testing?

- Objective truths that make up Christianity; theological beliefs and resulting ethical behavior
- Are my beliefs truly governed by Scripture?
- Do my actions get reshaped by Scripture?

Why is this kind of self-examination so difficult?

- Our hearts are deep and deal with eternity
- Our hearts are deceitful
- Our hearts are unknowable
- Our hearts are lazy
- Our hearts are emerging from the reign of sin
- Change is hard and scary
- Our hearts aren't pointed toward truth/true north

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

**11 Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete,
be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the
God of love and peace will be with you. 12 Greet one
another with a holy kiss. 13 All the saints greet you.
14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love
of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with
you all.**

The examination and testing is all meant to drive us to:

- Remember
 - The power to love
 - To confess and worship

These verses give us an idea of some things we can test:

- Our Christian love
- Serving others
- Attitude towards sin

Before we beat ourselves up and lose heart and rule ourselves out of the Kingdom, God wants us to remember:

- Grace - the beauty of Christ and his work
- Love - God loves us with a depth of love we can't comprehend
- Holy Spirit- He fellowships with us at all times

Preach this Gospel truth to yourself!

Isn't it risky to do this kind of self-examination?

Why do it?

- Your life and heart are worth the exam for the journey ahead
- Will they survive the journey ahead?
- Are they prepared for the stresses and temptations?

**There's nothing to fear from this kind of self-evaluation-
there's grace for it all!**

- The only fear is to not take the test, to never evaluate the presence or status of saving faith!

**Grace changes this examination from a threat to
a blessing.**

- It's not intended to quench our faith but to fuel it to burn higher and brighter

- Search me and know me, lead me in Your everlasting way...
- Lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil...
- I confess my sins, be faithful and just to forgive and cleanse me...
- Remind my soul of the Holy Spirit power to live this new life, to confess and worship the God who loves me with the beautiful cross of Christ