

**Bible Study Notes**  
**2 Corinthians**  
by Larry Roach  
**Section 19**  
**2 Corinthians 5:6-8**  
**Always Confident**

**Focal Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:6-8**

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident. I would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

Since we know that the Spirit of God lives within us and is guaranteeing what God has promised, we are able to stand confident in our current state away from the Lord. The word “confidence” means trust in or faith in. The writer is clearly saying that the source of our faith is the promise of God, secured by the Spirit that he has placed within us.

“On him [God] we have set our hope....God makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come,” 2 Corinthians 1:10,21; also see Ephesians 1:13. We are confident, although our mortal state is wasting away, that the Spirit of God is inwardly renewing us day by day. Therefore, we keep our eyes fixed on what God is doing, and not on our external circumstances, cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Furthermore, Paul expresses his preference to move beyond this mortal state of existence and be at home with the Lord. However, because of the one who lives in him and the promise God has made, Paul is convinced to “live by faith and not by sight,” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

To live by sight, is to live like the world. It is to be focused on our mortal state and be overwhelmed by the trouble we see. We know from the prophetic Scriptures that the

escalation of trials, distress and tribulations will continue until the day the Lord appears. Therefore, we are instructed: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- his good, pleasing and perfect will," Romans 12:2. In other words, do not "form with" the world and its attitude, for it is destined for destruction. We are instructed to be transformed. This word "transformed" means to be "formed across." Our transformation in Christ is carrying us across or above the pattern of this world. We are walking on higher ground into the Kingdom of God. As this is happening our minds are being renewed more and more, for we are taking on the mind of Jesus Christ.

In light of this, the apostle said, "We make it our goal to please him [God], whether we are at home in the body or away from it," 2 Corinthians 5:9. In light of the fact that God has called us and equipped us with all we need, we press on in faith in spite of the momentary troubles we face in our current state. We have set our minds on Christ and have determined to move forward in him. However, we are not moving forward in any old way, we are keeping in step with him by obeying him -- thus being filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:1 instructs us, "Find out what pleases the Lord."

The Lord requires general characteristics from each of us. He also requires specific things of us within the circumstances we face. We all face distressing circumstances of trials, tribulations, problems and temptations. God does have a way he wants us to respond to each one of these circumstances. He has an attitude he wants us to take on as we face them. My definition of an attitude is a "mind prepared for action." It is the way the mind has been trained to respond to specific circumstances. God wants us to know what pleases him, in each circumstance, and then train, fix or lock our mind on following his direction. Simply put, when we obey his direction -- it pleases him.

Take a moment to explore a couple of the areas of your life that are troubling you. You know what they are for you think about them often. Are you facing a difficult relationship at work, or with your spouse or your children? Are you facing persecution, injustice, unemployment, underemployment or loss of a loved one? What instruction does the

Bible give you on how to please God within that specific circumstance? What attitude does God want you to have? What is the mind of Christ in your circumstance?

Notice I didn't ask, what would please you or what you think is best in your circumstances? So often, I hear people reason, "God would not want me to be unhappy would he?" I would have to ask, "Who are you trying to please, you or God?" He wants us to obey him. The Scriptures is clear, if we do, we will be full of joy, blessing and happiness no matter what the circumstance.

Our flesh has a tendency to think about what would please us in our circumstances. Then we try to rationalize God's will to conform to ours. Romans 8:5-7 reminds us that those who live according to the flesh have set their minds set on what pleases the flesh. Needless to say, that kind of attitude does not please the Lord (v8). God warns us in Galatians 6:8a: "Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction. So many times I have seen this in myself and others. When we walk in the flesh we are like spoiled children who want their parents to give them whatever they ask -- without any intention of obeying the parent.

Take a look at the beatitudes Jesus spoke of. Beatitude is an "attitude of being." Jesus said, blessed, happy, full of joy are those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, those who are meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, those who are merciful, those who are pure at heart, those who are peacemakers, and those who are persecuted because of righteousness, cf. Matthew 5:3-12. Jesus was pointing us beyond the temporal to that which is greater and will last forever. See previous study: [Sermon on the Mount](#).

Consequently, the apostles came to understand this attitude of being which comes through the Holy Spirit. Even when Paul asked to be removed from the circumstance of being attacked by an angel of Satan, God reminded Paul that God's grace was sufficient for him. Paul's weakness, within his circumstance, gave opportunity for God's strength to be revealed -- for God's glory. When Jesus prayed for the disciples, he did

not ask God to take the disciples out of the world. Instead, he asked the Father to protect them from the evil one [making them stand], and to sanctify them [make holy] by the truth of God's word, cf. John 17:15-19. The apostle Paul stated "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation....I can do all this through him who gives me strength," cf. Philippians 4:11-13. When we stand in faith, no matter the circumstances, we will be content and full of joy in Christ Jesus.

In conclusion: God calls for us to trust him and the instruction he has given us. We are to walk in faith with our eyes on him and not on our circumstances. With this attitude we truly are more than conquerors in Christ, and we will please him. "Without faith it is impossible to please God," Hebrews 11:6. Faith requires us to look beyond our circumstances to who God is and what his will is. Let us live a life "worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God." Colossians 1:10.

**In light of this truth, what would God have you do?**