

# “WHAT'S A NEW COVENANT MINISTRY?”

*(2 Corinthians 3)*

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*Expository Sermon of II Corinthians - Sermon 5*

*Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam*

*Date: July 16, 2017*

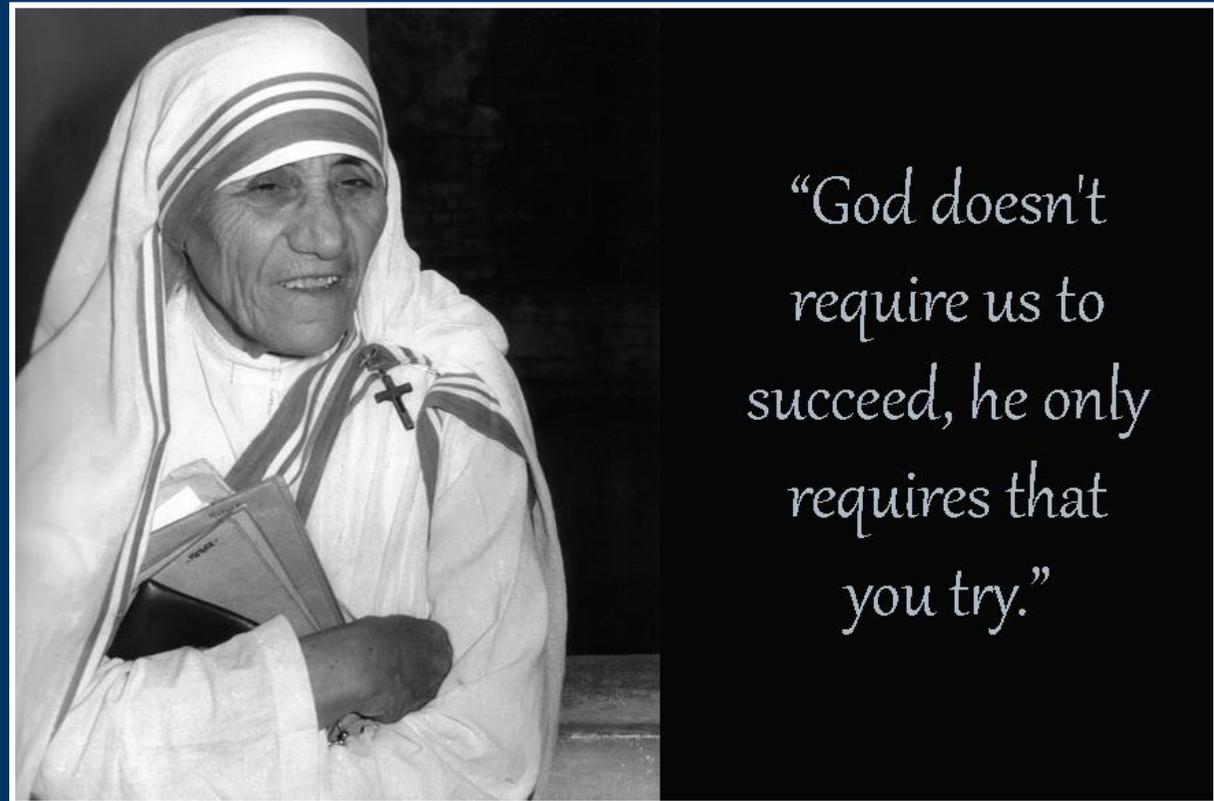
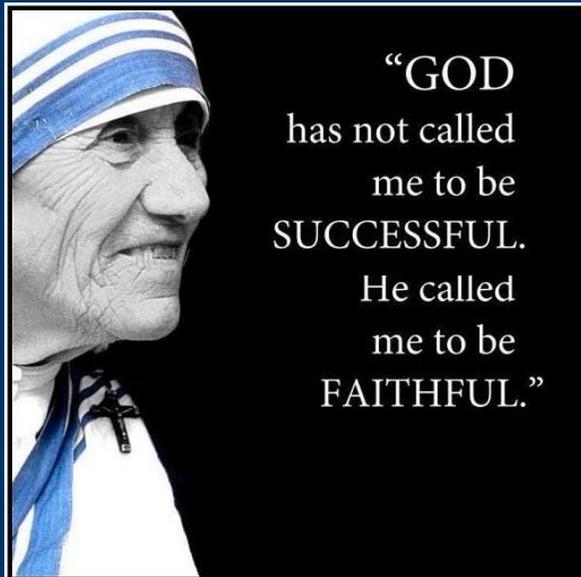
*Place: Hope Community Baptist Church*



# INTRODUCTION:

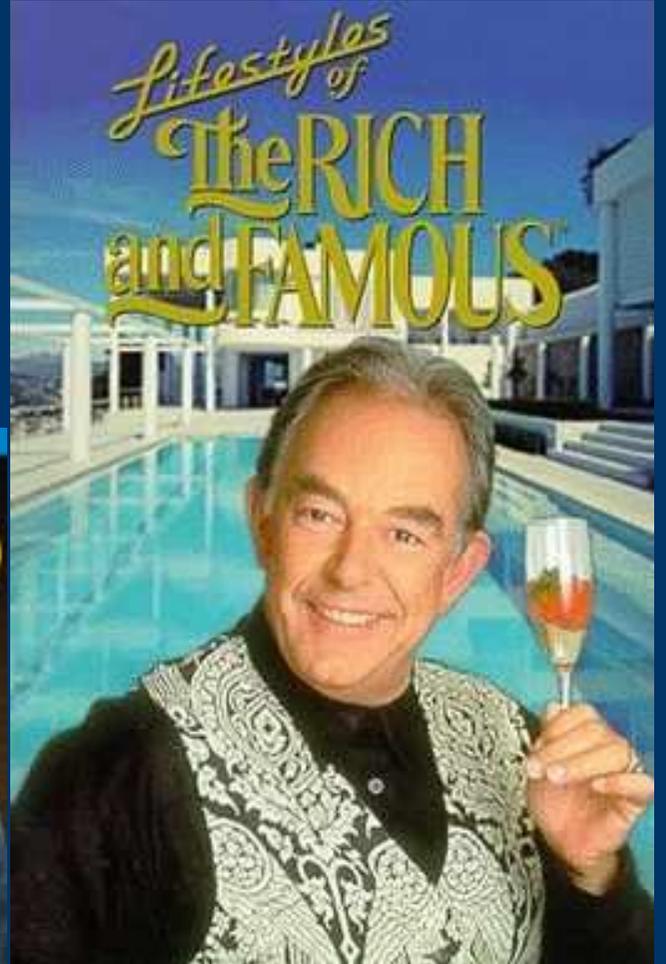
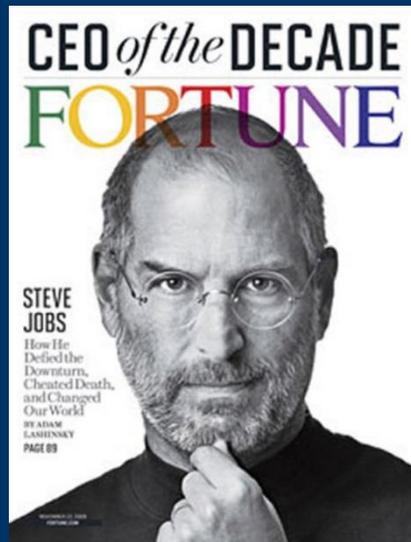


**“What is your rate of success?”**



# INTRODUCTION:

# How do we define SUCCESS?



# INTRODUCTION:

## The world's primary ingredients of **SUCCESS:**

Promotion

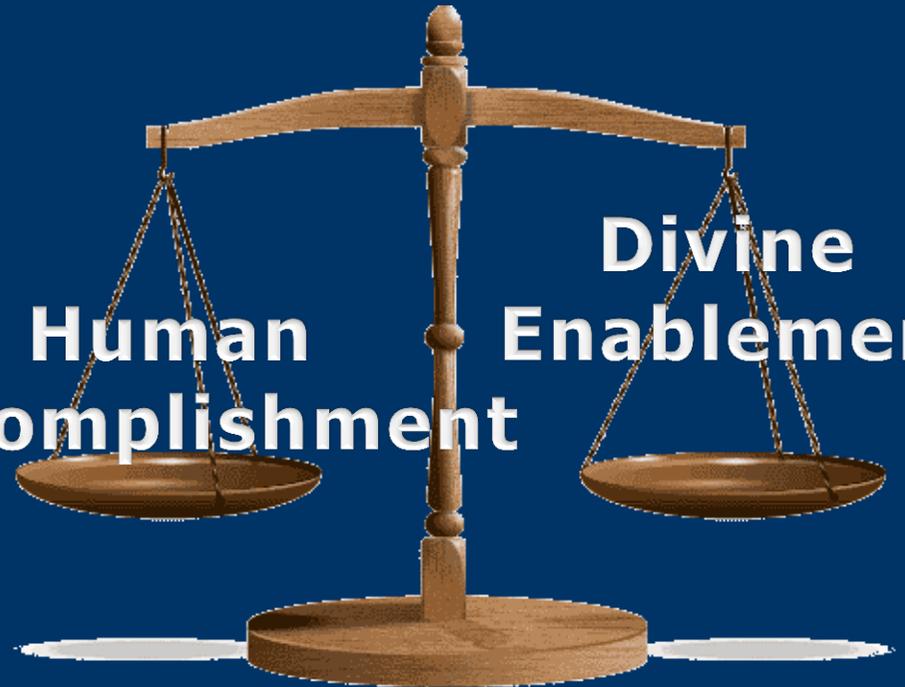
Confidence

Achievement

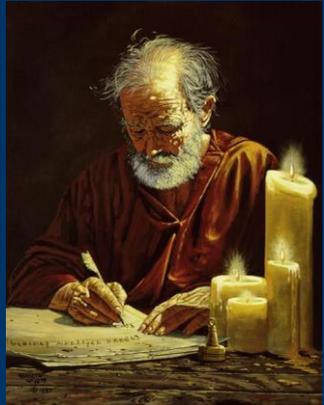


Human  
Accomplishment

Divine  
Enablement



# I. A POPULAR YET INCORRECT CONCEPT OF SUCCESS

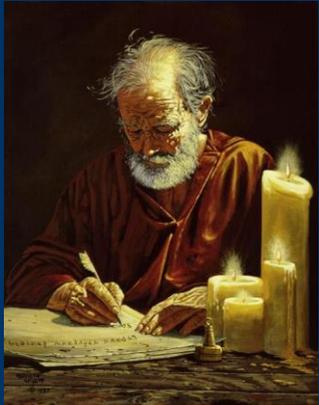


*Phi. 3:4* though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

- 1. His ancestry was impressive (v. 5a);*
- 2. His orthodoxy, impeccable (v. 5b);*
- 3. His activity, incredible (v. 6a);*
- 4. His morality, immaculate (v. 6b).*

  
**Applause**

# I. A POPULAR YET INCORRECT CONCEPT OF SUCCESS



***Phi. 3:7** But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. **8** What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.*

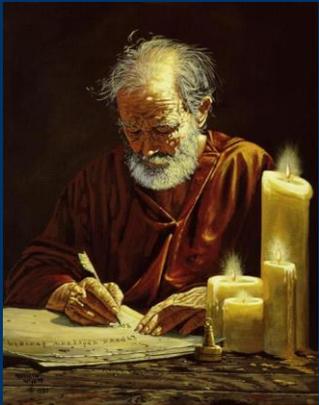


## II. AN UNPOPULAR YET CORRECT VIEW OF SERVICE

### A) *A Statement of Clarification*



**2 Cor. 3:1** *Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you?*

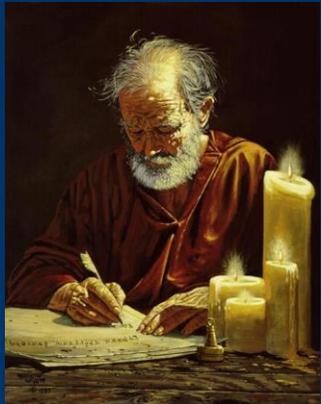


## II. AN UNPOPULAR YET CORRECT VIEW OF SERVICE

### A) *A Statement of Clarification*



**2 Cor. 3:2** *You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. <sup>3</sup> You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*

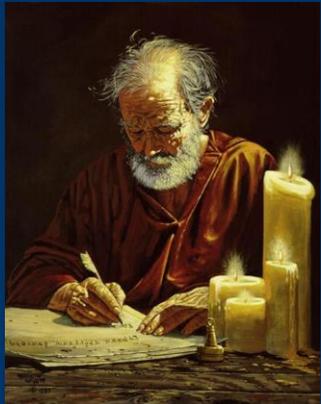


## II. AN UNPOPULAR YET CORRECT VIEW OF SERVICE

### A) *A Statement of Clarification*



*2 Cor. 3:4* Such confidence we have through Christ before God. *5* Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

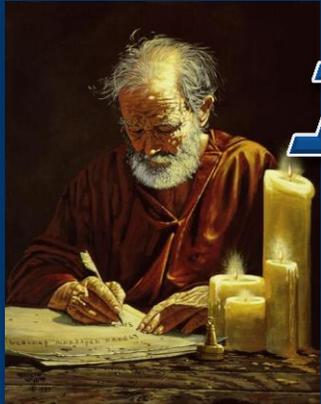


## II. AN UNPOPULAR YET CORRECT VIEW OF SERVICE

### *B) A Series of Contrasts*



**2 Cor 3:5** *Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.*



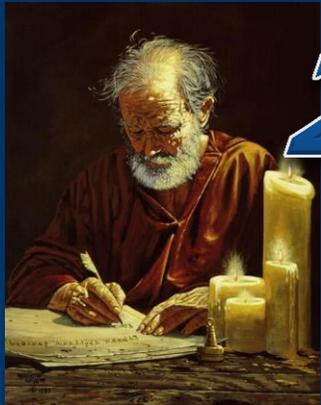
**1.** *Competent in ourselves*  
*Or Competent in God*

## II. AN UNPOPULAR YET CORRECT VIEW OF SERVICE

### *B) A Series of Contrasts*



*2 Cor 3:6* He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.



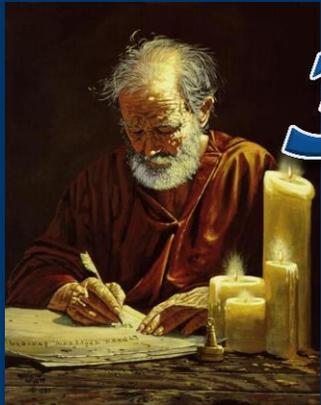
**2.** *Competent as minister of the flesh*  
*Or Competent as minister of the Spirit*

## II. AN UNPOPULAR YET CORRECT VIEW OF SERVICE

### *B) A Series of Contrasts*



*2 Cor 3:9* If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!



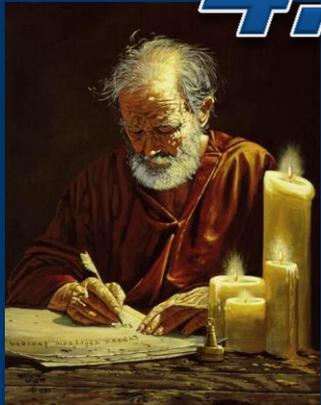
**3.** *Ministry that bring condemnation  
Or Ministry that bring righteousness*

## II. AN UNPOPULAR YET CORRECT VIEW OF SERVICE

### *B) A Series of Contrasts*



4.



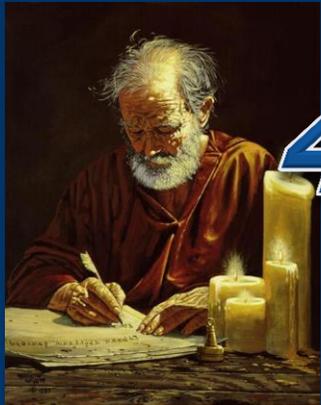
*2 Cor 3:7* Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, <sup>8</sup> will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? <sup>9</sup> If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

# II. AN UNPOPULAR YET CORRECT VIEW OF SERVICE

## B) A Series of Contrasts



**2 Cor 3:10** For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. **11** And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!



**4.**

**The Flesh gets the glory**

**Or the God gets the glory**

**2 Cor 3:12** Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.

me → success → my glory

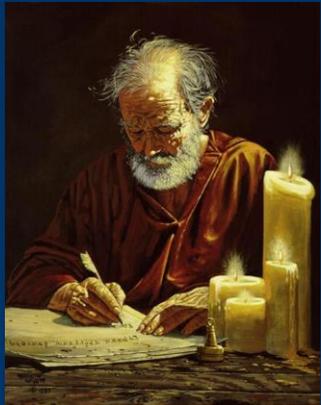
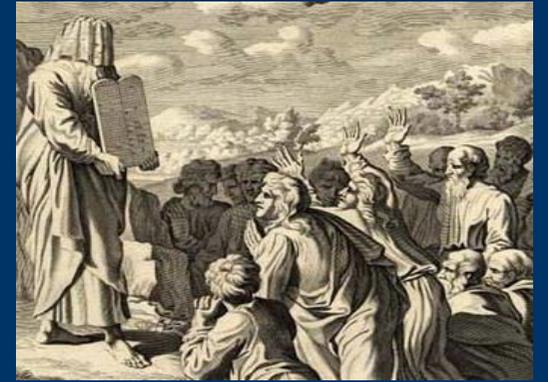
God → me → success → God's glory

## II. AN UNPOPULAR YET CORRECT VIEW OF SERVICE

### *B) A Series of Contrasts*



**2 Cor 3:13** *We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away.*



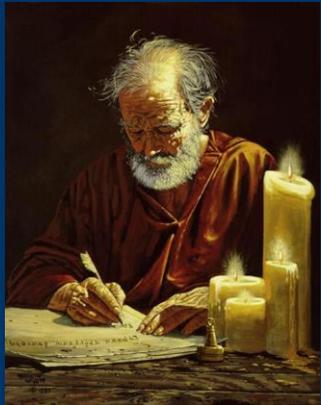
**2 Cor 3:14** *But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. **15** Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. **16** But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*

## II. AN UNPOPULAR YET CORRECT VIEW OF SERVICE

### C) *The Secret of Confidence*



**2 Cor 3:17** *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18** And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*



# CONCLUSION:



This recipe for a transformed life will fall flat if two essential ingredients are overlooked.

***A) True spirituality comes from God;  
it doesn't come from us.***

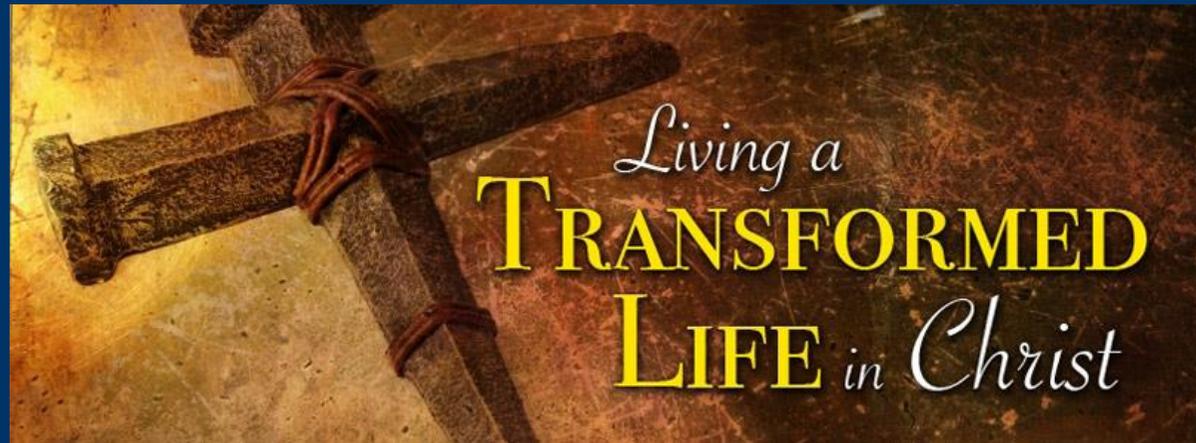


# CONCLUSION:



This recipe for a transformed life will fall flat if two essential ingredients are overlooked.

***B) True spirituality takes time to develop;  
it doesn't happen overnight.***





# CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the popular concept of success? What are some ingredients of success that people are looking for?*
- 2. What is God's concept of success and why is it not well accepted?*
- 3. What does Paul say about his life achievements as compared to what Christ did in his life?*
- 4. How do we know that a person's confidence is in himself or in the Spirit?*
- 5. Why did Moses veil himself after an encounter with God? What does the veil signify?*



*Scripture References:*

*2 Corinthians 3*