

# Ministry Credentials

***'Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart'***

**(2 Cor.3:1-3)**

**Letters of commendation were used  
to authenticate ministry**

*'And when he desired to cross to  
Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting  
the disciples to receive him; and when  
he arrived, he greatly helped those  
who had believed through grace'*

**(Acts 18:27)**

**Paul said the Christians at Corinth  
were his 'living letter' to validate  
his ministry**

**The Holy Spirit was the Writer  
Paul was the pen  
and the hearts of the Corinthian  
believers were the parchment**

**The law was written on tablets of stone  
but new covenant ministry is written by  
the Spirit on hearts**

**The Old Testament prophets looked  
forward to this era**

***'But this is the covenant that I will  
make with the house of Israel after  
those days, says the LORD: I will put My  
law in their minds, and write it on  
their hearts; and I will be their God,  
and they shall be My people'***

**(Jer.31:33)**

***'Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh'***

**(Ezek.11:19)**

***'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh'***

**(Ezek.36:26)**

***'And we have such trust through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant...'***

**(2 Cor.3:4-6)**

**We are ministers of the New Covenant**

## **1) It is a ministry of life**

***'...who also made us sufficient  
as ministers of the new covenant,  
not of the letter but of the Spirit;  
for the letter kills, but the Spirit  
gives life'  
(2 Cor.3:6)***



## **The law kills**

**'I was alive once without the law,  
but when the commandment came,  
sin revived and I died... For sin,  
taking occasion by the  
commandment, deceived me, and by  
it killed me'  
(Rom.7:9,11)**

**It is a ministry of death**  
**'But if the ministry of  
death, written and engraved on  
stones...'  
(2 Cor.3:7)**

**Grace is a ministry of the Spirit**

**The Spirit gives life**

***'...it is God who works in you both to will  
and to do for His good pleasure'  
(Phil.2:13)***

## **2) It is a ministry of righteousness**

***'For if the ministry of  
condemnation had glory, the  
ministry of righteousness exceeds  
much more in glory'***

**(2 Cor.3:9)**

**There is no condemnation under the  
new covenant**

### **3) It is a ministry of glory**

**There was a glory under the old covenant too...but it was a fading glory**

**The ministry of grace is an ever-increasing glory**

## **4) It is a ministry of boldness**

***'Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech'***

**(2 Cor.3:12)**

***'...in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him'***

**(Eph.3:12)**

***'Therefore, brethren,  
having boldness to enter the Holiest by  
the blood of Jesus...'  
(Heb.10:19)***

***'Seeing then that we have a great High  
Priest who has passed through the  
heavens, Jesus the Son of God... Let us  
therefore come boldly to the throne of  
grace, that we may obtain mercy and  
find grace to help in time of need'  
(Heb.4:14&16)***

***'...unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face...'***

**(2 Cor.3:13)**

***'For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart'***

**(2 Cor.3:14-15)**

## **5) It is a ministry of freedom**

***'Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where  
the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty'  
(2 Cor.3:17)***



## **6) It is a ministry which transforms lives**

***'But we all, with unveiled face,  
beholding as in a mirror the glory of the  
Lord, are being transformed into the  
same image from glory to glory, just  
as by the Spirit of the Lord'  
(2 Cor.3:18)***

***'For whom He foreknew, He also  
predestined to be conformed to the  
image of His Son, that He might be the  
firstborn among many brethren'  
(Rom.8:29)***