

THE MINISTRY: ITS DEMANDS

2 CORINTHIANS 04:01–06

Introduction

The demands of the ministry are clear and are to be heeded by every minister of Christ.

- I. The ministry demands constancy, demands that we not lose heart (v. 1).
- II. The ministry demands honesty and integrity in life and ministry (v. 2).
- III. The ministry demands not hiding the gospel (vv. 3-4).
- IV. The ministry demands servitude, demands that we preach Christ and serve man, not self (v. 5).
- V. The ministry demands personal conversion, demands the very presence of God Himself shining in a person's heart (v. 6).

I. 2 Corinthians 04:01 Ministry Demands Steadfastness

The ministry demands constancy, demands that one never lose heart or faint. The words “do not lose heart” (ouk egkakoumen) mean not to give up, not to become discouraged, spiritless, fainthearted, despondent or discouraged. The minister, Paul, did not quit or give up for any reason, not even because of persecution or weariness and exhaustion. There are two reasons why he did not quit.

1. The minister did not quit because of the greatness of his ministry: “We have *this ministry*.” “This ministry” refers to the great task God had given him, the task of proclaiming the *new covenant*, the message that man can now have a glorious relationship with God through the Spirit of God. This ministry is the ministry of the glorious gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ, that men can now be saved and forgiven their sins and redeemed to live forever in the glory of God. (See note 2, 2 Cor. 3:6-18.) No greater task could be given a person than to proclaim the cure for death to men. That cure is the new covenant, the glorious news about Jesus Christ. Because of this great task, Paul did not faint; he did not quit, no matter the demands or circumstances.
2. The minister does not quit because he has received mercy. Paul had personally received the mercy of God.

=> God's mercy had forgiven his sins and given him life forever with Christ.

Eph 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

Eph 2:4-7 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have

been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

=> God's mercy had given him his great task: to be a minister and to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Eph 3:8 *Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. (cp. Rom. 15:15-16; 1 Cor. 15:9-10)*

Thought 1. The servant of God must never lose heart, regardless of circumstances. Neither weariness nor opposition are to drive the minister to quit. He must not shrink from the ministry for any reason. His task is too great, and God's mercy has done too much for him and will continue to sustain him.

Mat 10:22 *"All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved."*

1 Cor 15:58 *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

Phil 1:27 *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.*

James 1:12 *Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

1 Pet 5:8-9 *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

2 Pet 3:17 *Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.*

II. 2 Corinthians 04:02 Ministry Demands Integrity in Life and Ministry

The ministry demands honesty and integrity in life and ministry. Note four points.

1. The minister is to renounce dishonesty, "the secret and shameful ways." The word "shameful" (aischunes) means disgrace, scandal, shame. The hidden or secret things that shame and disgrace men, that cause scandals are to have no part in the minister's life. The minister is to renounce all secret and hidden...

- immorality
- methods
- desires
- covetousness
- greed
- ambitions
- feelings
- thoughts

The minister is to live an *open and above-board life*, a life of honesty and integrity.

Job 11:14 “If you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent [home].”

Isa 1:16 Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong.

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Rom 6:11-12 “In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.”

1 Cor 15:34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God — I say this to your shame.

Eph 4:22 To You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.

Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

1 Pet 2:11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 2:1-2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

2. The minister is not to “use deception” (panourgiai). The word means trickery, cunning, cleverness, shrewdness, evil design. It means a man who will do anything and use any means to get what he wants. Note the minister is not to live this way; he is not to live using and misusing people, circumstances, events and things for his own end. The minister of God is to live as Jesus lived.

Gal 5:16 *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

Eph 4:1 *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

Eph 5:2 *And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Eph 5:15-16 *Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise.*

Col 2:6 *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him.*

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

1 John 2:6 *Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.*

3. The minister is not to “distort the word of God” (dolountes). The word means to falsify, adulterate, corrupt, deceive, ensnare. It is “the Word of God”; that is, it has come from God, not man. The Author of the Word of God is God. God is the *Authority* of the Word of God. The minister is only the *spokesman* for God; therefore, he is...
- not to falsify the Word of God.
 - not to adulterate the Word of God.
 - not to corrupt the Word of God.
 - not to deceive or ensnare people by mishandling the Word of God.

The minister is not to *add* the ideas, traditions, philosophies or speculations of men to the Word of God. Neither is he to take away portions of Scripture, denying that they are the Word of God; nor is he to neglect, ignore or keep silent about some part of God’s Word. The minister of God is not to distort the Word of God in any form or fashion.

Deu 4:2 *Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.*

Deu 12:32 *See that you do all I command you; do not add to it or take away from it.*

Prov 30:6 *Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.*

Mat 22:29 *Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.”*

2 Cor 2:17 *Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.*

2 Cor 4:2 *Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.*

2 Pet 3:16 *He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.*

Rev 22:19 *And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.*

4. The minister proclaims the truth honestly, openly and purely. The minister is to be true to the truth of God as revealed in God's Word. He is to be both humble and receptive before God in his study and prayer life. He is not to be wise in his own conceits. And when he goes before people, he is to proclaim and teach the truth as God's Word reveals it. As Charles Hodge says:

"Those ministers who are humble and sincere, who are not wise in their own conceit, but simply declare the truth as God has revealed it, commend themselves to the consciences of men. That is, they secure the testimony of the conscience even of wicked men in their favour" (An Exposition of the Second Epistle to the Corinthians. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1973, p.83).

John 1:14 *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 14:6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

John 18:37 *"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."*

Eph 4:25 *Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body.*

Prov 12:19 *Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.*

Zec 8:16 *These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts.*

Mal 2:6 *True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin.*

Note: Paul was being accused of these four things. (See note, 2 Cor. 1:12-22.) There were some in the church who were charging Paul with...

- sometimes losing heart.
- doing some shameful, disgraceful and scandalous things.
- deceiving people.
- distorting the Word of God.

III. 2 Corinthians 04:03–04 *Bold Proclamation of the Gospel*

The ministry demands openness, never hiding the gospel. Paul never mishandled the Word of God; he never deceived people with a false gospel. He was honest and true to the gospel; he openly proclaimed the gospel in all its purity. If the gospel was hid to men, if there were men who did not believe...

- it was not due to Paul's losing heart. He had proclaimed the gospel with all the energy he had and under the most severe circumstances. He had been as steadfast as a man could be.
- it was not due to Paul's living an impure life nor to Paul's mishandling of the Word of God. Paul had proclaimed the pure Word of God, the pure gospel, just as the Word of God had revealed it.

Paul says that the gospel was and is hid to men for two terrible reasons.

1. The gospel is "veiled" to men because they are "perishing" (*apollumenois*). Men are on the road to being lost, to perishing. They have turned away from God and are travelling in the opposite direction along the road that leads to perdition. The word "perishing" means to be lost, to be in the process of being destroyed or ruined, corrupted and put to death.

The thing to note is this: when a person is on the road to perdition, he has *turned away* from God and is pointed in the *opposite direction*. He is *travelling away* from God. He has deliberately separated himself from God and severed all ties with God.

Therefore, he cannot see God, nor the things of God. His face and eyes are not turned toward the gospel, but toward the world that perishes. The gospel is hid to him because he is perishing, because he is travelling the road of the lost, the road of those who are perishing. He is simply facing in the wrong direction, looking away from the gospel.

2. The gospel is veiled to men because the "god of this age" has blinded the minds of those who do not believe. Note several facts.
 - a. The "god of this age" is Satan (see *Satan*, 2 Cor. 4:4).
 - b. Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers lest they should believe the gospel. This is Satan's purpose: to keep people from believing the gospel and from becoming followers and worshippers of the Lord Jesus. How does he blind a person's mind? By appealing to his flesh — to the cravings of sinful man, by enticing him with the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life — by boasting in what he has and does (1 Jn. 2:15-16). If Satan can get a person to focus his life upon himself and the world, the person will become enslaved to his flesh and the things of the world, this is clearly seen in the enslaved habits of...

- possessing more and more
- eating more and more
- lusting more and more
- seeking more and more
- drinking more and more
- smoking more and more
- cursing more and more
- indulging more and more

The more evil a person sows, the more enslavement he reaps. Satan is able to blind the person's mind more and more. The point is simply this: Satan blinds the mind of a person by appealing to his flesh (sinful nature, sensual appetites) and hooking him on the pleasures of sin. And the more he becomes hooked, the blinder and harder he becomes to the gospel.

c. Jesus Christ is the "image of God." When Jesus Christ came to earth, men were able to see God, to see exactly what God is like:

=> loving, compassionate, caring

=> healing, restoring, saving

=> correcting, disciplining, controlling

=> holy, righteous, just

A person could look at Jesus Christ and see exactly what God is like.

John 10:30 *"I and the Father are one."*

John 10:37-38 *"Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."*

John 12:45 *"When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me."*

John 14:9 *Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

Phil 2:6 *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.*

Heb 1:3 *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*

2 CORINTHIANS 04:04 SATAN

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 04:04

Scripture definitely teaches that Satan is real, a living person who lives in the spiritual world or dimension of being. He is a living being who opposes God.

1. Scripture says that Satan rules and reigns over the world.

a. Jesus called Satan several things:

=> Satan is “the prince of this world.”

John 12:31 “Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.”

John 14:30 “I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me.”

John 16:11 “And in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”

=> Satan is the “evil one” from whom we must pray to be delivered.

Mat 6:13 “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one [referring to Satan in the Greek].”

=> Satan is a “liar” and a “murderer.”

John 8:44 “You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

b. Paul called Satan the following:

=> The “god of this age.”

2 Cor 4:4 “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

=> The “ruler of the kingdom of the air.”

Eph 2:2 In which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

- c. Peter called Satan the “enemy” of man.

1 Pet 5:8 *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

- d. John called Satan the Devil and Satan.

Rev 20:2 *He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.*

2. What does it mean when Satan is called the “god of this age?”

- a. It means that Satan’s evil nature and ways rule throughout the world. Any news report on any given day is clear evidence of this fact. The nature and ways of Satan are such things as these:

=> selfishness and pride.

Isa 14:12-14 *How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”*

=> lust and greed.

John 8:44 *“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire.”* (cp. Jas. 4:1-3)

=> anger and murder.

John 8:44 *“... He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him.”*

Mt. 5:21-22 *“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you, anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”*

=> lies and deception.

John 8:44 ... *“When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*

2 Cor 4:3-4 *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

2 Cor 11:13-15 *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

- b. It means that Satan rules over the kingdom of this world. Again this fact is clearly evident in any daily news report and in the history and behavior of nations and governments. It should always be remembered that when Satan tempted Jesus, he claimed to possess all the kingdoms of the world and to have the authority to give them to whomever he wished.

Mat 4:8-9 *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."*

This, of course, does not mean that every government or government leader is a puppet of Satan. There are many godly leaders serving in the governments of the world, and many governments serve their citizens in godly ways. It means that the systems of *governments and leaders* who base their rule on the evil nature and ways of Satan are under his control. A government leader cannot be of God — he has to be of Satan — if his rule is based upon such things as...

- selfishness and pride
- lust and greed
- wrath and murder
- lies and deception ☐

IV. 2 Corinthians 04:05 *Preaching Christ and Serving People, not Self*

The ministry demands servitude, demands that we preach Christ and serve man, not self.

1. The minister must preach Christ, not self.

=> The minister does not preach to build himself up in the eyes of people.

=> He does not preach his own ideas, notions, thoughts, opinions or philosophy.

=> He does not preach to impress people with his charisma, ability, fluency, speech or leadership.

The minister preaches Jesus Christ and Him alone (see note, *Preaching*, 1 Cor. 1:17; 2:2; 9:16-23). Note what he preaches: "Christ Jesus *as* Lord." In the Greek, there is no definite article (the). The message of the gospel is that "Christ Jesus *is* Lord."

=> *Christ* means the Messiah, the Messianic Saviour promised by God from the beginning of history.

=> The *Messiah is Jesus*, the carpenter from Nazareth.

=> Jesus is Lord, the Lord God Himself.

Acts 2:36 *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

Acts 5:31 *God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.*

Acts 9:20 *At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.*

Acts 10:36 *You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.*

Rom 10:9 *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Eph 1:20-22 *[God’s power] which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church.*

Phil 2:6-9 *[Christ] Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.*

1 Tim 2:5 *For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

2. The minister must serve men, not self. Note the word “servant” (*doulos*): it means bond-slave. The minister is to be a slave to others, serving and ministering to them. He is to be as devoted to people as a slave is to his master; as ready to help them and to meet their needs as a slave would be required to do by his master. Note why: for Jesus’ sake. What does this mean?

Jesus became our servant or slave. He sacrificed Himself every day and He did it for us. He struggled and struggled to overcome the world and the flesh for our sake, to conquer sin and lust, to gain freedom from the enslaving bondages and habits of life. Jesus Christ suffered daily and then sacrificed Himself in the ultimate sense by dying and bearing our punishment for us. He gave Himself for our sakes, became a slave

to us in order to save us. Therefore, all ministers are to become servants to men, to sacrifice themselves in serving men for the sake of Jesus Christ — because Jesus Christ did it for the minister. No higher service can be done than to serve others for the sake of Christ, the sake of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Mat 10:42 “And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

Mark 10:43-44 “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.”

John 13:14 “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”

Gal 6:2 Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Gal 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

V. 2 Corinthians 04:06 Personal Conversion and God’s Presence

The ministry demands personal conversion, demands the very presence of God Himself shining in one’s heart. The reason Paul preached Christ is that God had shined in his heart, that is, God had actually entered his heart and converted him. Note several points.

1. Conversion is said to be such a dramatic experience that it is best illustrated as light breaking through and overcoming darkness. In fact, creation is the only dramatic event strong enough to illustrate conversion. Conversion is so dramatic that it is like creating something new: a new creature, a new man.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Gal 6:15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

Eph 4:24 And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Col 3:10 And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

John 3:19-21 “This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

Eph 5:8 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.*

Phil 2:14-15 *So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.*

2. Conversion is wrought by God. It is God Himself who shines in our hearts and converts us.

Mat 16:17 *Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."*

Acts 3:19 *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.*

Gal 1:15-16 *But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man.*

1 Cor 2:10 *But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*

1 Pet 1:23 *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*

1 John 5:1 *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.*

3. Conversion is seeking "the glory of God in the face of Christ." It is the knowledge that the glory of God was in Jesus Christ, that Jesus Christ was the image of God.

2 Cor 4:4 *Christ, who is the image of God. (See note, 1 Cor. 4:3-4.)*

Col 1:15 *[Christ] He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

Col 2:09 *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.*

1 Tim 3:16 *Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.*

1 Tim 6:14 *To keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Which God will bring about in his own time — God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen.*

Heb 1:3 *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*

Mat 16:16 *Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

John 1:1-2 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.*

Rom 1:4 *And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ■*

2 CORINTHIANS 04:06 GLORY

*For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. **2 Corinthians 04:06***

This is a picture of creation. God commands the light to "shine out of darkness" (Gen. 1:3; cp. Jn. 8:12; Jas. 1:1). Creation is the only event dramatic enough to illustrate conversion.

The word "glory" is used time and time again in connection with Jesus Christ. (See *Hallowed*, Mt. 6:9; Jn. 17:1-4.)

1. In the Old Testament, the Jews spoke of the Shekinah glory of God. Shekinah simply means "that which dwells." The Shekinah glory was the visible presence of God which sometimes shone among men. God's glory came at times when God was very near and very close to His people. (Cp. Exo. 16:10; 24:16-17; 40:34; 1 Kng. 8:11; Isa. 6:3; Ezk. 1:28.)
2. The glory of Jesus Christ is the very presence of God in Christ — permanently. God dwelt in Him and He in God. God was manifested in His body and in His life at all times (cp. Jn. 1:14; 17:5; 2 Cor. 4:6; Jas. 2:1-2; 2 Pet. 1:16-18).
3. The glory which Jesus Christ gives to His followers is the very presence of God. God dwells in the believer and the believer dwells in God. God manifests Himself to the world in the believer's life (cp. Jn. 15:1-5, 22; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; Gal. 2:20). □