

STRENGTH *in* WEAKNESS

Living Letters

2 Corinthians 3:1-6 (ESV)

¹ Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? ² You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. ³ And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

⁴ Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The **context**:

“Letters of recommendation”

The validation of Paul’s life and ministry ...

The **challenge**: _____!

Defined as: “The capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone ...”

_____ influence! The question is, _____?

Whose life right now is a _____ of my influence?

5 keys to **godly influence**:

1. _____

God works ____ me before He works _____ me.

2. _____

Paul writes ____ in the Epistles to “Imitate me” (or something very similar).

3. _____

As Paul said, “We preach _____” (1 Cor. 1:23)

4. _____

Am I _____ what I'm _____?

5. _____

You can _____ people from far away, but you can only
_____ them up close.

The **goal of influence**: Christ and the New Covenant

_____ instead of _____

From _____ to _____

Not _____ but _____

To _____ and be forever _____!

Hebrews 8:8-13 (ESV)

⁸ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹¹ And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.”

¹³ In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.