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## **QT Questions — for 2Corinthians**

(From my study Bible)

Second Corinthians is about reconciliation, making difficult choices about toxic relationships and separating from sinful behavior. Paul had a strained relationship with the Corinthians, and some church members had questioned his motives and authority, saying that a true apostle would act more boldly. Paul does not respond to his critics by talking about his importance or influence; instead, he points to his meekness and suffering, the very things that his opponents were criticizing, as signs that he was faithfully preaching the message about Jesus.

Like Paul and the Corinthians, Christians today are no strangers to conflict. We often can be deceived into thinking that worldly wisdom and power are the way to accomplish anything of value. Instead, Paul tells us to look to the example of Jesus, who is light shining in darkness.

### **2Cor 1 (12/14)**

1. In 1:3-4, the compassionate God is He who comforts in all our troubles—what does He want us to do with the comfort He gave us; how can you obey His words when you meet people in trouble?
2. In 1:8-10, why did the God of all comfort allow Paul to feel the pain of receiving the sentence of death; how did God comfort Paul when “we (he) despaired of life itself”?
3. In 1:11, how does Paul say the believers help him; how can we also help like these believers?
4. In 1:18-22, what is Paul talking about when he speaks about yes and no; how can we apply this to our lives?

### **2Cor 2 (12/15)**

1. In 2:4, Paul expressing his love for people who have sinned was not so easy at all—how and why would he express them in such a way; where else have you seen love express in such pain; how is it applicable to our lives?
2. In 2:9, what test is Paul referring to; how were they obedient to Paul’s teaching; how can we also be obedient under a very difficult situation?
3. In 2:14-16, will you explain how the same aroma brings life or death; how can we spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere, starting at home?
4. In 2:17, who sent Paul; what’s the reason why he would speak with sincerity, even when it may bring harm to him; how can this apply to our lives?

### **2Cor 3 (12/16)**

1. In 3:1-3, how did the believers show they were a letter from Christ; how do we show we are a letter from Christ; what would our letter say to those who read us?
2. In 3:4-6, what does Paul mean when he says that their competence comes from God; how can we also find our competence in God?
3. In 3:14-15, what does it mean, “when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts”; how can their veil be uncovered; how can we also have the many things that covers our hearts be taken away to read and understand obey Him wholeheartedly?

4. In 3:17-18, what happens when the veil is taken away and the Lord's glory is truly contemplated; can you humbly describe what is happening in your life?

### **2Cor 4 (12/17)**

Sometimes, God's word can be straight forward, and sometimes, it can be like digging for hidden treasures inside a cave. Both are God's intentions for His word. So, when you get it, ask for His humility to joyfully obey Him immediately. And when the word takes time to understand, take your time, chew long like a thick steak, and only when it is digestible, swallow and obey.

1. In 4:4, how has the god of this age blinded the mind of unbelievers; so, when the unbelievers will not believe the gospel, what's happening in them?
2. In 4:7, who or what are the treasure and the jars of clay; how are they connected; how is this relevant to you?
3. In 4:8-12, how can we carry the death of Jesus in our bodies; why is life at work in some believers but death at work in others?
4. In 4:16-18, what does it mean that we are wasting away; how do troubles achieve an eternal glory; how is this applicable to you?

### **2Cor 5 (12/18)**

For next week daily QT (12/20-25), I will send you the Scripture and the questions each day on Christ's birth. So, we will pause the 2Corinthians reading next week, and resume on 12/27 (Mon), with 2Cor 6.

1. In 5:1-5, why would God's people groan while living in this world; how is that related to heaven; have you ever found yourself groaning for this same reason?
2. In 5:6-10, will you explain what it means to live by faith and not by sight; practically for your life today, how can you live by faith and not by sight?
3. In 5:14-15, what is the one compelling motivation that should determine how we should live; just as Christianity is about one purpose in everything in life is God's glory, so for the believers, there is only one motivation that must drive us whenever we do anything, including the most mundane thing, what is that, and how can we live in it?
4. In 5:16-17, why will God's people not regard other people from a worldly point of view; what does it mean for your life today to not regard other people from a worldly point of view; how are you living this out?
5. In 5:18-21, God calls His people Christ's Ambassadors—what does this mean for your life today; and will you explain the message of reconciliation that He has committed to His ambassadors?

### **2Cor 6 (12/27)**

1. In 6:1-2, how might God's people take God's grace in vain; what does it mean that now is the day of salvation; how is this applicable to us?
2. In 6:3-10; what's the greater reason for not putting up stumbling blocks; through Paul's many descriptions of "commending ourselves," what is he trying to say; how is this applicable to us?

3. In 6:11-13, what is Paul wanting from the believers; how do you think this will look like; how is this applicable to us?
4. In 6:14-18, this passage is often used for Christians to not marry a non-believer—while that application can certainly apply, what is the greater message given here; how is this applicable to us?

### **2Cor 7 (12/28)**

1. In 7:1, how is holiness perfected; why do you think that is; how is it applicable to us?
2. In 7:5-7, in Paul's time of uncertainty and anxiety, how did God comfort him; how did God use the Corinthian believers to comfort His servant; why would the believers behave in such manner?
3. In 7:8-11, there are two kinds of sorrows—what are they and what fruits do each produce; have you given to others both of these sorrows; how can you best follow Paul's example?
4. In 7:13-16, why is Paul delighted with the Corinthian believers; how does this apply to you?

### **2Cor 8 (12/29)**

There are many ways to display the beautiful heart of Christ, but one of them is truly, the heart that gives joyfully. I pray that we would truly believe and live this heart of Christ, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Ac 20:35).

1. In 8:1-7, the Macedonian churches were experiencing a very severe trial and extreme poverty—so what made Paul believe that God's grace was overflowing in them; what kind of heart did they display; how can we also display God's heart like they?
2. In 8:9, what did Jesus do to make His people rich; how can we learn to grow more like our Lord; how can we live like this today and each day of our lives?
3. In 8:10-15, Paul's equality is not that everyone has the same portion—so, how does his equality look like; how can we also live in such a way?
4. In 8:16-24, Paul introduced three people here, one with a name and two others were nameless—how did Paul introduced each person; and how did Paul want the church to receive them; how can we apply this to our lives?

### **2Cor 9 (12/30)**

The word here is "Generosity"—may this word describe our hearts, our lifestyle, our patience, our serving, our giving, and our love—Yes, may we be generous.

1. In 9:1-5, what is Paul doing; what should we learn from this?
2. In 9:6-7, we know in life, we don't always receive exactly what we sowed—so, what and why is Paul encouraging God's people to do; is it better to not give if we are not cheerful about it, why or why not (please remember Acts 20:35)?
3. In 9:8-11, can you explain what Paul is teaching with the principle of demand and supply—what our God demands, He will supply; how does this principle apply to your life?
4. In 9:12-15, how is the generosity of the believers impacting others; how is this connected with Matthew 5:16; how is it applicable to your life?

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**2Cor 10 (12/31/21)**

1. In 10:3-4, what weapons did Paul use to wage war, even though he was living in the world; which of these weapons have you learned to use in your battles; how effective are they to you?
2. In 10:5, Paul is teaching about how to handle our thoughts—what are couple of things he does; how can we also learn to handle our thoughts as Paul did?
  - As some of you know well, “the thought life” is one of the strongest and most difficult place to wage our spiritual battle. It’s so because many of us do not know how to handle the wrong thoughts and our wrong emotions well. And of course, we also see in ourselves, when the right thoughts do come, we do not often take them captive and make it obedient to Christ. In other words, it’s hard to reject bad thoughts, and it is also very difficult to obey the right thoughts.
  - May I encourage you to memorize 2Cor 10:5, so you can meditate with it for a few days or perhaps a few weeks, asking our Wonderful Counselor to bless you to understand, to love, and to obey His truth in your life? Savoring this verse has blessed me tremendously.
3. In 10:7-16, Paul is defending himself and his ministry (this is so, so sad)—how does he do this; how is this applicable to our lives?
4. In 10:17-18, in our world, we know unless we blow our own trumpet, hardly anyone will ever recognize us, much less commend us—so, why isn’t Paul teaching God’s people to follow the ways of the world in which we are all part of; where is Paul seeking his commendation; why should that matter to us?

**2Cor 11 (1/1/22)**

1. In 11:1-4, what does Paul mean to present the believers as a pure virgin to Christ; how does this apply to your life?
2. In 11:5-15, how does Satan and his servants masquerade as angels of lights; what are we to learn from this?
3. From 11:24-28, will you take the time to list each one of the specific ways Paul suffered for the gospel; as you reflect on them, what are some of your thoughts?
4. In 11:30, Paul says, “If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness”—what does he mean by that; what would our God want us to learn from this?

**2Cor 12 (1/3)**

1. In 12:1-6, most Bible scholars believe that Paul is speaking of himself—so, what is spurring Paul to boast about his paradise experience when he would rather not boast; and how far is he willing to boast when he does (according to verse 6)?
  - I find verse 6 a remarkable display of self control (the fruit of the Spirit), because when I see myself in a similar place, I doubt I would know how to refrain myself.
2. In 12:7-8, we are not told what the thorn in the flesh is, and it is not necessary to know what that thorn is, but what is certain is, that it is meant to be painful and difficult, as evidenced by Paul’s pleading to God to take it away three times—so, why did such a caring God give such a difficult thing to His beloved servant; what are we to learn from this?

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3. In 12:9-10, how does God answer to Paul's desperate pleading to remove his thorn; and how does Paul respond in obedience to God's unexpected answer; what is Paul's conclusion to this dialogue; how can apply this to our lives?
  4. In 12:11-21 (19), why did Paul do and say all that he did before the Corinthians believers; how can we also have this singular mindset, as we treat the people around us?

### **2Cor 13 (1/4)**

1. In 13:4, we live in a world where to be strong is an admired trait—yet, how did Christ demonstrate that He was weak; how should we learn to treat weakness in light of how Christ was?
2. In 13:5, Paul instructs the believers to examine and test themselves to see if Christ Jesus is in them—how were they to test; though our testing will be different, how can you test and examine to see if Christ is in you?
3. In 13:10, God gave Paul the authority of his apostleship and leadership to do what; how did he exercise such authority; how does this apply to our lives?
4. In 13:11-14, Paul gave his final greetings—what is he encouraging God's people to do; how is the Trinity displayed in blessing the people?
  - If you have noticed at the end of each of our worship, we always conclude our worship with the Benediction, God's blessing.
  - And if you heard the benediction I share, I always invoke the Trinity's name, because of this passage.
    - I describe the benediction like sealing an envelope, after God writes His blessings throughout the worship to His people, before He sends us out to the world again, He seals the letter so that all of His blessings will be kept.
    - It is like our Father covers us with a jacket before we go out to the blistering cold, so that we can be ready to face the world.
      - I appreciate so much that each worship is always meant to be sealed with His blessings, with His jacket, at the conclusion.
      - So, please, don't ever leave the worship, before you hear God's benediction over His people.