

# Do You Have What it Takes?

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 3:1-11, Philippians 3.

B. Paul tells his readers that they are their letter of recommendation—their changed lives was all that Paul needed to prove that his work was authentic Christianity.

C. One of the only sure witnesses today is that Christ has changed the life.

## II. Where one gets the ability to have spiritual impact on those around you.

A. The New Covenant—the new provision of life of God for His people—must be understood in order to live in the new way.

B. We need to have a confidence, and this must come from God.

C. The Old Covenant is Paul trying to do his best on behalf of God; the New Covenant is God doing His best on behalf of Paul.

a. Paul had a lot going for him—he had the right pedigree, he was a leader as a young man, he was zealous, he had a spotless morality—but this was not enough.

b. The New Covenant relies on God.

D. The New Covenant changes the entire motivation.

a. The law makes us want to rebel.

b. Freedom from the law makes us behave out of gratitude.

c. We already have God's approval and love in the New Covenant.

d. There is something attractive about the glory of the hard work of the Old Covenant, but it is fading. The New Covenant does not fade and does not condemn.

e. Righteousness means being fully accepted by God—God gives us a standing of worth that we start with.

f. We come to understand that God at work in us is so much better, that the old way is a pile of manure comparatively.

## Application questions:

1. What is the Old Covenant? Is it bad? Explain.

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2. Explain the New Covenant comparing it with the Old. What are its advantages?

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3. How does the New Covenant help us to help others? Give some examples where you have seen this at work.

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