



## Living With a Wide-Open Heart

2 Corinthians 6:1-11  
March 27, 2022

**The Big Idea:** We are called to have wide-open hearts toward the Lord and each other. After Paul reminds us that God makes us new creations through Christ, he gives a warning to make sure we don't let God's grace become an empty thing in our lives. This is a call to stay engaged in the spiritual battle of living for Jesus, using the "weapons of righteousness" that the Holy Spirit makes possible.

### 2 Corinthians 6:1-11 (ESV)

**6** <sup>1</sup>Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

"In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by **great endurance**, in **afflictions, hardships, calamities**, <sup>5</sup>**beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger**; <sup>6</sup>by **purity, knowledge, patience, kindness**, the **Holy Spirit, genuine love**; <sup>7</sup>by **truthful speech**, and the **power of God**; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

<sup>11</sup>We have **spoken freely** to you, Corinthians; **our heart is wide open.**

## 6 Hard Questions I Need to Ask Myself:

- Am I simply going through the motions of knowing Christ? Is my relationship with Jesus empty and routine or vibrant, personal, and meaningful? [Matthew 15:8-9]
- Am I consciously living out my salvation or just relying on it in times of difficulty? [John 15:1-5]
- When people watch me in all the different circumstances of life, am I making God look good and appealing to them? [2 Corinthians 6:4; 1 Peter 4:11]
- Am I relying on weapons of righteousness to get through the hard times? [2 Corinthians 6:6-7]
- Do I faithfully choose to believe the truth of God's perspective on my life or do I adopt the lies of the world and the worst criticisms others may throw in my direction? [1 John 3:1; 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Psalm 139:14; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:19]
- Have I chosen to open my heart wide open toward people who have disappointed, criticized, and even attacked me? [2 Corinthians 6:11]

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'It doesn't happen all at once,' said the Skin Horse.

'You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept.'

- Margerie Williams Bianco, The Velveteen Rabbit

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