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Please take a moment to quiet yourself before God. Ask Him to forgive you for any sin that is on your heart and to fill you afresh with His Holy Spirit.

In Marks of the Ministry Part I, we learned that as followers of Christ our lives will be marked by hardships, struggles, trials and hard work. Our ministries will also require the supernatural patience of God so that we may persevere. Today we will discover a few other things that will mark our ministries.

Please read 2 Corinthians 6:6-10.

According to verse 6 what must our ministries be marked by?

Purity, knowledge, longsuffering kindness, the filling of the Holy Spirit and sincere love. Let's dig a little deeper into the original language of some of these concepts and receive from the teaching of God's Word.

Purity: From the Greek word *hagnos* which means "clearness, cleanness, chaste, set apart, exciting reverence." To follow God we must have nothing hidden, no dark corners, every part of our lives must be set apart for His use.

Knowledge: From the Greek word *gnosis* which means "the knowledge of God as offered in the Gospel, the knowledge of the things which belong to God, moral living and right living." In particular this knowledge refers to deeply knowing God. In order to serve God we must profoundly know His heart, mind and will. We come to know God through prayer and the study of His Word.

Long Suffering: From the Greek word *makrothymia* which means "slowness in avenging wrongs, constancy, steadfastness." There will be times in our ministries that others will wrong us. The Lord has promised that,

“Vengeance is mine and I shall repay.” This promise enables us to keep our eyes constantly and steadfastly on the Lord and frees us to continue faithfully in the work He has given us.

Kindness: From the Greek word *chrestotes* which means “integrity, goodness, kindness.” Our service for the Lord must be marked by His kindness. Also, since God has taken the burden of vengeance from us, we may strengthen the influence of our ministry repaying evil with kindness.

Holy Spirit: Our ministries would be nothing without the leading of the Holy Spirit. We must empty ourselves of sin and selfishness and make room for the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Sincere Love: From the Greek *anypokritos agape* which means the real undisguised kind of love that comes only from the Father. Our ministries need to be powered by the agape love of God. My own imitation human love will not carry my work very far.

Which of the above attributes do you need God to develop in your heart and ministry?

According to verse 7, what else must mark our ministries?

The truth of God’s Holy Word, His mighty power and righteousness.

Please fill in the blanks below. We must continue our work whether:

We are honored or _____,

We are given a good report or an _____ report.

We are recognized as speaking the truth or _____.

It may seem at times that we are unknown, but God knows our name; that we are dying, but in Christ we have abundant life; that we are chastened, but we are greatly loved.

Only in the service of God may we experience sorrows yet always have a cause to rejoice; may we may be poor but we have abundant spiritual riches to share; may we have nothing, but in Christ we possess everything.
Alleluia.

I have tried the other life with all its false illusions and broken promises and I can say beyond the shadow of a doubt the life I have in Christ, despite its suffering, is deeply satisfying and its blessing far outweighs the so called pleasure of sin and living for self.

Are you marked by His ministry? Tried yet found faithful; laboring yet blessed; dishonored yet honored; dying yet abundantly alive; poor yet rich beyond measure? Then you shall one day hear our Father say, "Well done my good and faithful servant. Come and share in your Master's joy."

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