

**Spiritual leaders shape “church culture.”**

1. *Hope*  
They must ideally see how things **should** be.
2. *Faith*  
They must optimistically see how things **can** be.
3. *Love*  
They must graciously embrace what **is**.
4. *Peace*  
They must help people manage the fear of what **might** be.

# 2 Corinthians

## 13:7-10

**Paul shaped the culture of the church with the Word and the Way of the Cross.**

### 2 Corinthians 13

“7 Now we pray to God that you do no wrong; not that we ourselves may appear approved, but that you may do what is right, even though we should appear unapproved. 8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but only for the truth. 9 For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong;”

**Paul’s prayer request #1**

- That believers be authentic (live the truth).

*“Leaders should authenticate others, before themselves.”*

*“Leaders should find joy in sacrificing for others.”*

### 2 Corinthians 13

“ 9 . . . this we also pray for, that you be made complete (**restored**). 10 For this reason I am writing these things while absent, in order that when present I may not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me, for building up and not for tearing down (**overthrowing**).”

**Paul’s prayer request #2**

- That wayward sheep be restored without harsh punishment.

*“Leaders should seek to restore sinners.”*

*“Leaders should use their authority to build up not tear down.”*

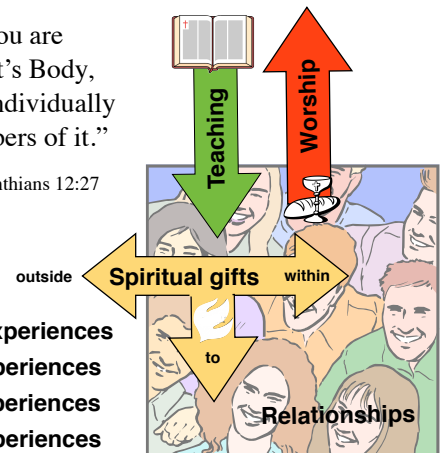
## **What are some practical implications?**

1. Respond to every ministry situation with **grace and truth**.
2. Ministry starts - to and with **believers**.
3. Leaders need to focus attention on the **“Word and Way of the Cross.”**
4. Prayer should focus on **spiritual growth**.
5. Power should be exercised with **gentleness and graciousness**.



“Now you are Christ’s Body, and individually members of it.”

1 Corinthians 12:27



Vital relational experiences  
Vital learning experiences  
Vital worship experiences  
Vital ministry experiences