

Weak Yet Strong (2 Corinthians 12:1-10)

How God Sees You – Part 5

Life Church St. Louis – March 10, 2013

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

2 Corinthians 10:10 (NIV) For some say, "His [Paul's] letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing."

2 Corinthians 11:13 (NIV) For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:30 (NIV) If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

1. True believers have an _____ with God

2 Corinthians 12:1-2 (NIV) I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows.

A. True believers don't boast about their _____

2 Corinthians 12:3-4 (NIV) And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.

B. True believers boast about their _____

2 Corinthians 12:5-6 (NIV) I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say.

C. True believers boast in the _____

2 Corinthians 10:17 (NIV) But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

2. God allows _____ in your life

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV) To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

A. Your weaknesses keep you from _____

James 4:6b (NIV) "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

B. Some weaknesses God doesn't _____

2 Corinthians 12:8 (NIV) Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

3. God's _____ is sufficient for you

2 Corinthians 12:9a (NIV) But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, ...

A. God's _____ works through your weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV) But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

B. _____ in your weakness

2 Corinthians 12:10a (NIV) That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.

C. When you are weak, you are _____

2 Corinthians 12:10b (NIV) For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Weak Yet Strong (2 Cor. 12:1-10) – Study Guide

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Intro. What weaknesses in your life have you wanted to trade for a strength?

What weaknesses did Paul's adversaries point out in his ministry (2 Corinthians 10:10, 2 Corinthians 11:13)?

In what ways is what Paul did about his weakness different from what we tend to do (2 Corinthians 11:30)?

1A. Why do you think Paul didn't say much about his supernatural experience with God (2 Corinthians 12:1-4)?

1B. In what ways does Paul boast in the Lord (2 Corinthians 12:5-6, 2 Corinthians 10:17)?

1C. How could you boast in the Lord about your weaknesses? Why is it important to acknowledge our weaknesses?

2A. What effect did Paul's thorn in the flesh have on him (2 Corinthians 12:7)?

2B. Why did God refuse to remove Paul's weakness (2 Corinthians 12:8, James 4:6)?

2C. How can your weaknesses actually enhance rather than hinder your life?

3A. How can we appropriate God's promise to Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9 for our own lives?

3B. What types of weaknesses in our lives would qualify as thorns in the flesh? What types of weaknesses would not qualify?

3C. How might you rejoice in your weaknesses as Paul did (2 Corinthians 12:10)?

3D. How can understanding what Paul went through help you and others deal with weakness and suffering in their lives?