

# STRENGTH in WEAKNESS

## A Vision, a Thorn, and the Power of Weakness

### 2 Corinthians 11:30-33 (ESV)

<sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. <sup>31</sup> The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup> At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, <sup>33</sup> but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

### 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. <sup>3</sup> And I know that this man was caught up into paradise — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows — <sup>4</sup> and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup> On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses — <sup>6</sup> though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me.

<sup>7</sup> So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

### The **context**:

*Paul's defensive “boasting” ...*

### **God granted Paul ...**

an \_\_\_\_\_, and

a \_\_\_\_\_.

*Why?*

He \_\_\_\_\_ Paul (perhaps) so that ...

He could \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of giving up all for Christ.

He would \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ to come.

He would \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

He \_\_\_\_\_ Paul so that ...

He would not have \_\_\_\_\_ over his experience.

He would not become \_\_\_\_\_.

He would \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_.

He would find \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ's \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus Christ and **sufficient grace**:

Everything that we tend to \_\_\_\_\_ in this life, Paul said he was  
\_\_\_\_\_ with. *How can we get there?*

By accepting that \_\_\_\_\_ is sometimes part of the divine \_\_\_\_\_ and  
instead of \_\_\_\_\_ God in those seasons, we can \_\_\_\_\_ on  
God to carry out His plan.

By learning that in the hardest times in life, we should pray for more  
\_\_\_\_\_ and not just less \_\_\_\_\_. The former allows us to  
develop \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with Him. The latter causes us  
to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

By recognizing that God is more concerned with His \_\_\_\_\_ than our  
\_\_\_\_\_. There is no greater \_\_\_\_\_ for our lives than to  
have \_\_\_\_\_ of God. There is also no greater \_\_\_\_\_.

Our weaknesses can enable us to truly \_\_\_\_\_ Christ and can  
enable us to be powerfully \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.