



“STRENGTH THROUGH WEAKNESS”

Series: “WINNING WAYS: What Champions Know and Do”, Part 9 of 9
Sunday, July 28, 2024, at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Big Idea: God often uses pain and struggle as the pathway to power.

2 Corinthians 12:1-2, “I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. 2 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.”

2 Corinthians 12:3-4, “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.”

2 Corinthians 12:5-7, “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. 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.”

2 Thessalonians 3:17, “I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write.” {NASV}

Galatians 6:11, “See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!”

Galatians 4:15b, “I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.”

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

2 Corinthians 12:9a, But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you.”

2 Corinthians 12:9b, “... for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

2 Corinthians 12:9b, “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

2 Corinthians 12:10, “That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

- I. GOD’S EMPOWERING PRESENCE OFTEN SHINES BEST THROUGH HUMAN WEAKNESS.**
- II. OUR TRUST IN GOD THROUGH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS RELEASES HIS POWER IN OUR LIVES.**
- III. THE WAY WE REPRESENT JESUS THROUGH PAINFUL EXPERIENCES IS OFTEN OUR MOST POWERFUL WITNESS.**

2 Corinthians 4:7-9, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. {NASV}