

Power in Weakness

2 Cor 11:24-12:10

What would you boast about?

Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. 2 Cor 11:24-28

If you must boast, _____

If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. 2 Cor 11:30

It's in our weakness _____

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 2 Cor 4:7

What would the world consider your weakness?

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. 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. 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 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. 2 Cor 12:1-4

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. 2 Cor 12:7

Our weaknesses can _____

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 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. 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. 2 Cor 12:8-10

Discussion Questions:

- What are typical things our society will boast in? What are things that you have boasted in before?
- List a few of your own weaknesses that you have or have experienced. How have you seen the power of God through those areas of weaknesses?
- How can you present those “messages of Satan” to God to transform discouragement to God’s grace?