

Taking it Home

1. What “weaknesses” are you experiencing that you can embrace, so you will experience the sufficiency of God’s grace and the power of Christ resting upon you?

2. The world tells you that strength is found in yourself. We hear, “focus on your strengths,” “take pride in your strengths,” “weaknesses demonstrate failure.” God’s word tell you to embrace weakness and be strengthened by the power of Christ. How can you do this?

Object Lesson

In 12:10, Paul says he boasts of his weaknesses ,so that the power of Christ may “rest upon him.” The imagery here is to take up a place of lodging. As you think of Christ’s power “resting upon you,” think of a place where Christ’s power can be manifested in your life. When you embrace your weaknesses, it is as though you are pitching a tent for the power of Christ to reside within you.

Prayer Requests

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Jonas Bundy
Bethel Church
November 29, 2009

His Grace is Sufficient

In spite of intense hardship, Paul found God’s grace sufficient in all circumstances . Therefore, in his weakness, the power of Christ made him strong.

Notes:

For more information about growth groups, growth group homework and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelhc.com

Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 29, 2009

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Quick Review: In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, we discovered that embracing our weaknesses for Christ's sake results in strength. In fact, Paul boasted all the more of his weaknesses, so that he might experience the power of Christ taking up residence within him. What caught your attention, confused or challenged you?

My Story

1. Which of the circumstances in 12:10 can you best identify with and why?

2. Have you ever prayed for relief from a painful or difficult circumstance? How did God answer your prayer?

Growing Deeper

1. God responds to Paul's petition for relief from the thorn in his flesh by saying that His grace is "sufficient" (12:9). This same word for "sufficient" is used in Matthew 25:9, John 6:7; 14:8. Discuss how the usage of "sufficient" in these passages impacts your understanding of 12:9.

2. Paul boasted all the more gladly of his weakness so that the power of Christ would "rest upon him" or "take up residence in his life." Compare and contrast these passages which speak of boasting: Prov. 27:1; Jer. 9:23,24; Rom. 5:11; 1 Cor. 4:7; Gal. 6:14; Phil. 3:3; James 1:9; 4:16. When is it okay and not okay to "boast"?

3. In 12:10 Paul lists a number of difficult situations where it would be easy to lose hope. Compare 12:10 to Romans 8:35-39. What stands out to you about these passages? How are they similar?