

Power in Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

David Feddes

¹ 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. ² 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.

³ 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— ⁴ and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

⁵ On behalf of this man I will boast,
but on my own behalf I will not boast,
except of my weaknesses— ⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

Thorny questions

- What was Paul's thorn in the flesh?
- Who sent the thorn to Paul?
- How should we pray in affliction?
- When should we stop requesting?
- Why would a thorn not be removed?

Why not healed?

- Failure to ask
- Lack of faith
- Refusal to repent
- Don't want health
- Bound by demon
- **Divine purposes**

Power in weakness

- Protection from pride
- Faith in sufficient grace
- Closer union with Christ
- Stronger inner self
- Able to comfort others
- Giving all glory to God

Power in weakness

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 when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Cor 12:9-10)