

Homework #16 - *Christ's Power is Made Perfect in Weakness*

II Corinthians 12:1-10

"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" --2 Corinthians 12:9

Day One:

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. What are the key words?

Contrasts in Corinthians: What opposites do you notice in this passage?

2. Read the following scriptures and write down your observations such as: who had the vision, their response, and how did the Lord appear?

- a. Ezekiel 1:1, 22-28; 2:1-2
- b. Isaiah 6:1-5
- c. Revelation 1:9-18

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. Read I Corinthians 13:12. What are our revelations of Christ like on earth?
4. Read John 14:18-21. What promise does Jesus give to His followers?
5. What does the word "revelation" mean?
6. Read II Corinthians 3:16-18. What is the purpose of revelation?
7. Read Ephesians 1:15-23. What does Paul pray for believers in 1:17?

What is the purpose of this revelation? (1:17b)

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What does Paul pray will also be revealed to us? (1:18-19a)

How does Paul describe Christ in the heavens?

8. Read Ephesians 4:10 and Hebrews 4:14. Where is Christ now and why is this important?
9. Read Matthew 11:25-26. Who can know Christ? How is He revealed to us?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

10. Why is it important for you to see Christ as He truly is? How does this change your perspective of everything else?

Ask the Father to reveal more of Christ to you today!

Day Two

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-6. Of what will Paul now boast? (12:1)
2. When did this vision take place? (12:2)
3. What remained a mystery to "the man" concerning the vision? (12:2-3)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. Where was the man taken? (12:4)

Read Luke 23:39-43. Where was Jesus going to take the thief who believed in Him?

Read Revelation 2:7. What was Jesus' promise to those who overcome by believing in Him?

Write a definition or description of paradise based on these scriptures:

5. What did "the man" hear? (12:4)

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Why do you think he was not allowed to repeat what he heard? (See also Daniel 12:4 and Revelation 22:10.)

6. Who do you think is the man who had the vision? (12:6)

Why did Paul not attach his name directly to this experience? (12:6b)

7. Read Matthew 6:1, 5, 16. How do "the hypocrites" respond to spiritual experiences?

What does Jesus say about seeking the Lord? (Matthew 6:6)

How do these verses apply to Paul's response to his vision?

8. Read Luke 2:19. What was Mary's response to the amazing revelations that accompanied Jesus' birth?

What does it mean to "treasure" something in your heart?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

9. When God reveals Himself to you in a special way, are you able to keep it a secret? What are your motives for wanting to share the experience with others? What can you learn from Paul's discretion?

Day Three

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read II Corinthians 12:6-9. What does Paul call his vision? (12:7)
2. Looking back to **Day One**, what was the immediate response of each person who had a revelation?

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

3. What is the eventual danger for a person who has had a revelation? (II Corinthians 12:7) Why do you think this is true?
4. Read Genesis 3:4-5. What did the serpent offer to Eve if she disobeyed God?

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How can our pursuit of revelation for its own sake move us further from God?

5. Read James 4:6. Write a paraphrase of this verse, putting it in your own words:

How is this dynamic seen in Paul's response to his vision?

6. What can you learn about grace from the following scriptures?

John 1:14, 16

Romans 11:6

Romans 12:6

I Corinthians 15:10

7. How would you define or describe "grace"?

Why do you think it is difficult to receive grace when we are strong or self-sufficient? See also Jonah 2:8.

8. What do you think Jesus' words to Paul mean in 12:9?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

9. Is there a specific area in which you are in need of God's grace today? How does today's lesson encourage you to grab hold of God's grace and rely on His power?

Day Four

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What was given to Paul in addition to the revelations? (12:7)
2. How did Paul receive this "thorn"? (12:7)

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What strong word does Paul use to tell us the extent of his pain?

Read Job 2:3-10. How was Job afflicted? What was Job's response?
(Job 2:10)

3. How did Paul respond to his thorn? (12:8)
4. How did Jesus answer Paul's prayer? (12:9)

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

5. Have you ever gotten a thorn under your skin? Why is this a good description of a serious problem?
6. Read Psalms 34:18. What promise is given and how does this apply to Paul's circumstances?
7. Read Deuteronomy 8:1-18. What important lessons did God want to teach the Israelites through their discomfort in the wilderness?

How does this apply to Paul's thorn?

8. Read Hebrews 12:5-10. What should be our attitude in suffering?

What is God's greater purpose for us in verse 10?

9. Read James 1:2-5. What does suffering produce in us?

How does this passage say we should respond to suffering?

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

10. Do you have any thorns in your life right now? Are there any painful circumstances beyond your control?

How are you responding to the pain? Is it causing you to rely more on God for His power and wisdom? Are you asking God to remove it? What can you learn from Paul and his example?

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Day Five

Observe: What does the passage say?

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. What happens when we are weak?
2. What is, therefore, Paul's response to weakness?
3. Write down everything in which Paul delights in verse 10:

Interpret: What does the passage mean?

4. What three important words proceed Paul's list of "delights"?

Why are these words necessary in order to have purpose in suffering?

5. Write a paraphrase and elaborate on the meaning of Paul's words, "When I am weak, then I am strong."
6. Read I Corinthians 1:26-31. How does our weakness serve God's purpose?
7. Read James 1:9. What do you think this verse means and how does it apply to Paul's boast?
8. Read Matthew 5:3-12. How does God reward those who suffer for His sake? How is Paul's life an example of this blessing?
9. In the following scriptures, how is God's power revealed in our weakness?

Psalm 34:19

Psalm 35:10

Isaiah 25:4

Apply: What does the passage mean to me?

10. Do you know what it means to boast in your weakness? Are you experiencing the overwhelming love and power of God in your difficulties? Write a prayer thanking God for His strength and ask Him to reveal more of His power and love to you.