

II Corinthians Series

Chapter 12

II Corinthians- Chapter 12

Key verse- v. 9 *“And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*

Theme- The God of Great Wisdom

How does God work things out by use of this wisdom?

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God encourages with a look into the future v. 1- 5

Paul was a little discouraged after reflecting on all the things he endured *ch 11: 23- 33*

Paul then gives a glimpse into how he was encouraged by the LORD *v. 1-5*

Only mention ever of what happened in Acts 14: 19-20

The end of this reflection was for Paul to glory in his infirmities, because of what God could use *v. 5 Rom 8: 18*

I Cor 2: 9

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God encourages with a look into the future v. 1- 5

Paul had a way of encouraging himself in the LORD

David had a way of encouraging himself in the LORD

1 Sam 30: 1- 6

Do you have a way of encouraging yourself in the LORD?

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God exalts strength through weakness v. 6- 12

Paul consistently was very transparent with his life v. 6

- He has it within him to glorify himself v. 6, 11
- He recognizes the foolishness of tooting your own horn
- He has no desire for a reputation better than he really was
- No facades, no faking

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God exalts strength through weakness v. 6- 12

Paul discovers the satisfaction, power and glory of the resurrected life v. 7- 10 *Phil 3: 10*

- It was God that gave him the infirmity
- It was God that allowed Satan to buffet him
- It was God that kept him in a state of weakness, to protect him from being exalted *James 4: 6- 10*
- It was God to whom Paul appealed
- It was God's silence that kept him asking
- It was God that answered him
- It was God that was going to show forth His strength through Paul's weakness (this is the crucified life) *Lk 14: 27*
- It was God's power that was going to bring success v. 11-12

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GRACE= God's **help**,
when we **need** it,
to **accomplish** His will

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God vets out the motives of our heart *v. 13- 18*

Though misunderstood, falsely accused, taken for granted and not appreciated, Paul explains that his continued care for the Church at Corinth reveals his true motivation for their good.

- They came behind in nothing; they received full attention *v. 13*
- They did not have to worry about supporting Paul financially; he was there to give, not receive *v. 14*
- Their good was the focus of Paul's desire, not what they could provide for him *v. 15*

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God vets out the motives of our heart *v. 13- 19*

Paul was very clear that he was not giving them attention for what he could get from them

He caught them undermining his ministry by talking falsely about him, and his motivation *v. 16*

- They accused Paul of taking advantage of them by sending his helpers to gather for his gain *v. 16*
- He put it to them by asking questions *v. 17- 18*
- He gently emphasizes- their edification is his only goal *v. 19*

God allows hardships & misunderstandings into our lives to prove the depth of our love- NEVER QUIT

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God's time of accountability exhorts us to live right

v. 20- 21

Paul gives them a gentle warning of his coming

- He knows there is still unrepented sin *v. 20*
 - Debates
 - Envyings
 - Wraths
 - Strife
 - Backbiting
 - Whisperings
 - Swellings (overbearing pride)
 - Tumults (fighting)
 - Uncleaness
 - Fornication
 - Lasciviousness (sensual motivations & animal desires)
- He expected them to get right with God, so he did not have make personal confrontations when he arrived *v. 21*

Personal accountability & self-examination is a [key tenant](#) of our relationship with Christ