

Blessed Weakness

8-29-21

2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)

But Jesus said to me, “My grace (favor and power) is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

As we face weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities, this promise is especially comforting to us. This is a reminder that our weakness is an avenue for God to move in power. To help us embrace this promise, we will to at the context in which Jesus spoke this to Paul.

2 Corinthians 12:1–6 (ESV) **No O/H**

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.

We see that Paul received visions and revelations from Jesus.

Paul humbly writes about his personal experience. We see that he was caught up into the third heaven or paradise. There in the third heaven, he heard things that cannot be repeated. Paul says he will not boast about himself but only boast about what he heard in the third heaven or paradise. Here we should take note that Paul was the “caught up” which is the same word used in 1Thess.4:17 referring the rapture of the church when Jesus returns.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (ESV)

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

The rapture of the church will be like Paul’s experience. The rapture of the church will be so sudden that Paul likens it to a blinking of the eye in 1Cor.15:52.

As with Paul, we are ambassadors for Jesus with a view of heaven and a message from heaven. Like Paul, we have great enlightenment, which comes with refining fires.

2 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)

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.

To the man of God receiving great revelation, a thorn also will be given which is a messenger of Satan to keep them from being conceited. No amount of prayer will remove the thorn.

2 Corinthians 12:8 (ESV)

Three times I pleaded with Jesus about this, that it should leave me.

Within the refining fires, Jesus peaks to the enlightened man of God and continues to pour out HIS power.

2 Corinthians 12:9a (ESV)

But Jesus said to me, “My grace (favor and power) is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Refining in the furnace of affliction is necessary to teach us to be selfless, trusting in Jesus. In our weakness, when we only have Jesus, the full power of Jesus will be released through us. Jesus’ power is made perfect in our weakness. Therefore, our thinking changes. Weakness is our strength.

2 Corinthians 12:9b (ESV)

Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

With understanding of God’s purpose, we boast in our weakness so that the power of Christ will rest on us. Our thinking changes, our attitude changes, our actions change.

Our approach to life and everything in this world changes. We see our weakness is an avenue that the power of Christ. We are fearless. We are indestructible.

2 Corinthians 12:10 (ESV)

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.

Weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities don't bother us because this is when Christ is released. For when I am weak, then I am strong. Therefore:

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Prophetic Prayer