



**Sermon Title:** The Power

**Sermon Series:** My Story

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 12:5-10

**Speaker:** Noah Tindale

**Our story consists of:**

1. What my life was like before Christ
2. How I met Christ as Savior
3. How Christ changed my life.

**Our stories have power, but they also have weakness**

### **Romans 1:16 ESV**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**Our stories have power not because of our strength, but because of Christ's strength in our weakness.**

### **2 Corinthians 12:5-10 ESV**

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.

## **2 Corinthians 12:5b-6 ESV**

...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.

## **2 Corinthians 12:7-8 ESV**

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.

## **2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV**

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.

**What would it look like if we saw Christ's grace as sufficient?**

## **2 Corinthians 12:9-10 ESV**

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.

**Our stories have power when we are willing to say “When I am weak, then I am strong” through our struggles because of Christ.**

**Link to Video:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nh\\_dzTB0Rr8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nh_dzTB0Rr8)



## Get to know you questions:

- What is your funniest fail?
- Why do you think we hide our weaknesses?

*[Note: In some cases the questions below will work just as they are written. Sometimes they will serve as inspiration for questions more relevant to the sermon. Use the questions that work, move on when they don't. It's rare that you will need them all. At least one question from each section is probably a good idea.]*

## Into the Bible

- What is something from this passage that we can learn about God?
  - Ex. What are his characteristics? What does he do/communicate, or not do/communicate and why?

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- From your other personal Bible reading, what did you learn or see about God that relates or correlates to what this passage is talking about?
- As you reflect on this passage or this past week's sermon, what is God trying to say or show us? What one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, encouraging, new or difficult to grasp?

## Application

- If you were to live out these verses, **what** would be most challenging for you to trust God with? Why or why not?
  - **When** and **where** do you struggle the most with \_\_\_\_\_ [whatever issue(s) this passage/sermon raised]?
- How would your life change today or this week if you live out what God is teaching you?
- Are you called to do something? Go somewhere? Serve someone? How are you going to live this out at home, in your work, or in your leisure time?

## Pray and Share

- Share your Story of Weakness: If you are a follower of Jesus, God has intersected with your weaknesses and the most challenging parts of your story. God wants to use those moments so you can share the hope of Christ in through your weakness. Take a moment and share your story by following this pattern to share your story:
  - **1. “My life seemed normal until...” 2. “I discovered hope and help in Jesus when...” 3. “I am glad I have a personal relationship with Jesus today because...”**
- Who can you share this with? You can say something like “May I share how something like this can happen to you?”
- What victories have you seen God give you this week?
- What can we pray for you about this week? What challenges or struggles are you facing? What is on your heart? (have someone use the prayer journal to record requests and answers)?