



PACIFIC  
CROSSROADS  
CHURCH

August 26, 2018

# REVELATION

A RENEWED IMAGINATION

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# Reflections

In our society, strength - or at least imagined strength - is applauded. And weakness is thought of as a defect - it means that you've missed the best in life. From the age of seven, I felt weak. I was chased out into the street by a fellow student at the school I was attending. I collided with a truck. As you would expect, the truck got the better of the exchange. They were afraid that my brain might have suffered as a result of the accident.

I didn't use the word "weak" in those days to describe how I was feeling about myself, but that is the word that catches the feeling - I can still remember the feelings.

I have now reached the point in life where, inevitably, I'm wearing out physically. I can't have many more years to go, and as I'm conscious of wearing out physically, I find myself feeling weak. So I'm back with the theme of weakness because of what has happened to me and what is happening to me now as an old man whose body is wearing out.

God doesn't allow us to stay with the idea that we are strong. Oh we may have that idea, but the Lord is going to disabuse us one way or another and it will be good for us and it'll give glory to Him when He does so. Lest I should be puffed up because of the abundance of revelations that God had given me, I was given a thorn in the flesh. The Lord spoke to me and this is what He said: "My strength is made perfect in your weakness."

J.I. Packer, *Weakness is the Way*

*'Nocturne in Black and Gold - The Falling Rocket' by James Whistler, 1875*

*'Revelation: A Renewed Imagination' logo by Jesse Wu*

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# Scripture




2 Corinthians 12:1-10

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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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— <sup>4</sup> and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup> On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

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# Sermon

*Weakness is the Way*  
Rankin Wilbourne

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## Events & News

### **Pacific Crossroads Worship Night, August 30th, 7:30 - 9:30 PM**

Join us for a night of extended worship at the Lodge Room in Highland Park! Doors open at 7:30 PM, music begins at 8:00 PM. Free admission, all ages welcome, and plenty of parking available.

### **Community Group Fair, September 9th**

PCC Community Groups meet in homes all around the Los Angeles to know and care for one another grow as followers of Jesus. Come to our CG Fair and learn more about our Community Groups that meet all over the city. Food and entertainment will be provided!

### **PCC Women: Fall Brunch, September 15th**

Connect with PCC women from diverse backgrounds over breakfast at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. There will be a time to hear from the Lord through prayer and Scripture with one another. Child care provided.

*View and sign up for all events on our mobile app, on our website, [PacificCrossroads.org/Events](http://PacificCrossroads.org/Events), or speak with someone at the 'New Here?' tent.*

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## Ministry Resources

### **Pastoral Care**

Our pastoral care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place. Email [pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org](mailto:pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org) or call our office at 310.551.0081.

### **Celebrate Recovery**

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Visit [PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery](http://PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery).