

The Greatest Illusion
Breaking Free From a Trapped Mindset
Dustin Tavella

We want to prove to ourselves or to the world that we can do it.

“... In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 NIV

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. ³And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—⁴was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. ⁵I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.

2 Corinthians 12:1-5 NIV

Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, ⁷or because of these surpassingly great revelations. ... 2 Corinthians 12:6-7 NIV

Paul knows who he is. And he knows who God is. And he’s smart enough to know the difference between the two.

... Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from 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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 NIV

Hope comes from God’s strength.

Hope is most potent when it shouldn’t exist.

Stories inspire when they start with impossible.

When you show the world what can be accomplished in the midst of your brokenness, you show the world Jesus!

TALK IT OVER

Read **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**. How might our weaknesses be an opportunity for God’s strength to work in our lives?

When have you experienced hope recently? What did you learn about God’s strength through that circumstance?

Where do you currently need more hope? How can you share that with God and others this week?

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