



A COMPANION WORKBOOK FOR 2 CORINTHIANS



GOD'S UNLIMITED POWER

*His power is not limited
by our weakness*

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-12

GRACE POINT CHURCH

THE BIG IDEA

God's power is not limited by our weakness, so we can live with confidence that He is always working for us, in us, and through us.

We are tempted to hide weakness because we believe God can only use strong, impressive people. Paul gives us a better picture: ordinary jars of clay carrying an extraordinary treasure. Our weakness does not disqualify us. It displays that the surpassing power belongs to God.

KEY SCRIPTURE

"We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7

Right now in my life, where am I most aware of my weakness?

REFLECT AND RESPOND

TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY

A jar of clay was common, cheap, and unimpressive. That is exactly Paul's point. God saves us through the gospel and sends us with the gospel, not to showcase our strength, but to make His power unmistakable.

THE JAR

- Common and fragile
- Exposed in weakness
- Unable to save itself

THE TREASURE

- The glory of Christ
- The gift of new life
- The power of God

Stop fixating on the container. Fix your eyes on the treasure God has placed within.

Where am I focused on outward appearance, performance, or failure instead of Jesus and what He has done for me?

LOOKING TO THE TREASURE

ALWAYS WORKING FOR US

Paul does not deny suffering or opposition. He names them honestly, then shows that none of them can outrun God's protecting power. Jesus is strong enough to carry His people through what threatens to crush them.

AFFLICTED**BUT NOT CRUSHED**

External suffering cannot overpower God's protection.

PERPLEXED**BUT NOT DESPAIRING**

Confusion does not leave us without gospel hope.

PERSECUTED**BUT NOT FORSAKEN**

No human rejection can cancel Christ's presence.

STRUCK DOWN**BUT NOT DESTROYED**

We do not stay down because our Savior did not stay dead.

Which promise do I most need today? What suffering or opposition do I need to place beneath God's power?

GOD IS WORKING FOR ME

FAITH OVER FEELINGS

Perplexed means we do not understand. Confusion exposes how deeply we want control, but our faith cannot be based on understanding. It rests in Jesus, the Lord of creation and redemption, whose strength and goodness do not change.

Even if we do not understand what He is doing, we know He is strong and we know He is good - so we are never without hope.

1

NAME THE FEELING

Acknowledge fear, confusion, rejection, or defeat without letting it rule.

2

REMEMBER THE KING

Jesus died, rose, and defeated every enemy that threatens His people.

3

CHOOSE FAITH

Respond as if God's power truly is greater than the weakness you feel.

What if I did not have to let my feelings control my response? What would walking by faith look like right here, right now?

CHOOSING A RESPONSE OF FAITH

ALWAYS WORKING IN US

If God were only working for us, He might remove every trial. Instead, He often uses His power to sustain us through suffering and to make the life of Jesus visible in mortal flesh. The cross-shaped road is forming Christ in us.

"Always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:10

SUFFERING → ENDURANCE

ENDURANCE → CHARACTER

CHARACTER → HOPE

WEAKNESS → THE LIFE OF JESUS

Where might God be sustaining and shaping me instead of removing the struggle? What righteousness, peace, thankfulness, or trust is He producing?

TRACING HIS WORK IN ME

ALWAYS WORKING THROUGH US

God's purpose in our pain is bigger than us. Paul could rejoice if he suffered and others were comforted, if he was imprisoned and others were free, or even if he died and others lived. This is the sacrificial love of Christ on display.

"So death is at work in us, but life in you."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:12

SACRIFICIAL LOVE ASKS

1

AT WORK

Will this help someone see and experience the love of Jesus?

2

IN THE CHURCH

Will I pursue real relationships even when they cost comfort?

3

AT HOME

Will I engage my family instead of protecting my convenience?

Where am I filtering obedience through 'What will this cost me?' before asking whether it will glorify God or serve someone else?

READY TO BE USED BY GOD

DISCUSSION & PRAYER

- 01 Where are you most aware of weakness in your life right now?
- 02 Why does God place His treasure in ordinary jars of clay?
- 03 Which of Paul's four 'but not' promises is most personal to you today?
- 04 How can faith in Christ guide us when understanding and feelings cannot?
- 05 What is the difference between God working for us and working in us?
- 06 How might your weakness or suffering become life and comfort for someone else?

PRAY: Confess the pressure to appear strong. Thank God for sustaining power, ask Him to manifest the life of Jesus in your weakness, and pray for courage to be used for the good of others.

NOTES AND PRAYER

WILL YOU FOLLOW?

The promise is eternal life. The cost is death to yourself. The question is: Will you follow?

God's unlimited power means you do not have to sit on the sidelines. He invites you to participate intentionally in His work - advancing His kingdom, building His church, and caring for His people.

1

AM I WILLING AND READY TO BE USED BY GOD?

Name the fear, weakness, or preference that keeps you from following.

2

WHERE WILL I DENY MYSELF AND TAKE UP MY CROSS?

Choose one concrete act of costly love, service, witness, or obedience.

God is always working for us, in us, and through us. His power is not limited by our weakness.

MY NEXT STEP OF FAITH