

Your Weakness Plus God's Grace

August 7, 2022

Text: 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10

Introduction:

Big Idea: Since Jesus Christ does his best work through grace, learn to be content in _____ !

1. Value the _____ that suffering can bring (7)

- See the logical flow of thought
- James 4:16

2. Don't waste time focusing on the _____ (7)

- The thorn
 - What we know
 - It was _____
*The word for "thorn" literally means " _____ "
 - It was given by _____
 - A messenger of _____
 - What we do not know
 - We don't know the _____ of the thorn
 - The specific place of Satan in the _____

3. Keep it real – don't attempt to pretend your suffering isn't _____ (8)

- Paul pleaded with the Lord _____ that the "thorn" should leave him.

4. Let suffering _____ you (9-10)

- Paul saw two ways forward.
 - Option #1 - The Lord could _____ the thorn and Paul could get on with ministry
 - Option #2 - The Lord could _____ the thorn, and Paul would be forever crippled and slowed in life and ministry.
 - Option #3 – The Lord left the thorn but gave Paul _____.

MY _____ + GOD'S _____ = _____ / _____

TRUTH INTO ACTION: Act on the lesson you have learned!

- Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **Learn to delight in your weaknesses!**
- For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. **Cultivate contentment!**



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: Share a situation in your life that God has used to keep you humble.

1. v. 7 How might Paul have responded in the flesh to these amazing revelations?
2. v. 7 Was Satan responsible for this thorn or God?
3. v. 7 What was Satan's motivation for sending it?
4. v. 9 What was God's motivation for allowing it?
5. What lesson can we learn from this about how God views pride?
6. v.9-10 Why then might God allow obstacles or difficulties in our own lives?
7. Can you share an example of a time when God used a difficult situation to humble you?
8. v.10 Explain this phrase, "my power is made perfect in weakness."

Closing Prayer: Father teach me to see my weaknesses as You do, so that, I might experience your amazing grace.