

POWER IN WEAKNESS: Strengthening Your Walk with God

October 10, 2021

FBC MISSION: Seeking to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus who love, live and share Him.

October Memory Verse (2 Corinthians 1:5) For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Introduction: 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4

Big Idea: _____ is central to your decision-making process. Let Paul's motivation for his life become yours and be strengthened in your walk with God

1. You will be strengthened in your walk with God when your motivations are _____. (12-18)

- Paul appeals to:
 - his conscience (12)
 - his correspondence (13-14)
 - his course of travel (15-18)

2. You will be strengthened in your walk with God as you anchor your life in Christ's work. (1:19-22)

- The _____ of God are _____ in Christ (19-20)
- The people of God are _____ in Christ (21-22)
 - You can stand firm in Christ (establishes)
 - You have an anointing (1 John 2:20, 27)
 - You belong to Jesus (seal upon us)
 - You have a guarantee of the promises (Spirit in our hearts)

3. You will be strengthened in your walk as you make ____ in God your aim (1:23-2:4)

- We are not saved by decision but by the Holy Spirit of God which ushers in a new spirit.
- It is a miracle of God in my _____ life.
- The Holy Spirit work in one's inner life is not to make you feel good about yourself but make you so happy in God that you forget about yourself and concentrate on him.

My first responsibility every day is to make my heart happy in God.
—George Mueller

Life Lessons:

- Motivation comes to the life anchored in Christ—**LET THOSE PROMISES STRENGTHEN YOU.**
- Joy in God doesn't just happen—**YOU HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT.**

Connect Card: How will you fight for joy in God this week?

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: What kind of people do you find it easiest to listen to?

v. 12 – Paul defends himself in this letter. Why? What does Paul say about his conscience?

- Do you think this is a true statement? We too will be able to appeal to a clear conscience only so far as we are characterized by a posture bowed before the Lord God and a pattern of life lived according to God's way. Discuss the implications of your answer:

v. 14 – Paul says of the Corinthians “on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you”. Paul uses the return of Jesus as a filter. Do you agree or disagree that there is great value in thinking today about Jesus’ return? If so, why? If not, why?

v. 19-22 - Summarize in a sentence or two, what God has done for the Corinthians (and Christians today).

- How do these truths make our lives different from those around us?

v. 1:23 -2:4 – Some Christians imagine that the apostle Paul was driven and task-oriented, steamrolling over people’s needs and feelings to “reach the world” with the gospel. Work through the following questions to get some clarity on Paul’s heart.

- v. 23-24 Based upon the sermon, what is this joy?
- Discuss this quotation from John Piper: “If all you have is a decision for Christ and no delight in Christ, you don’t have Christ.”
- Read back through this passage a record what you view of Paul’s heart:

(Reflection) Paul’s conscience was clear. He was not aware of any specific instance in which he had acted inappropriately toward the Corinthians. Can you make a similar claim regarding the people in your life (family members, friends, neighbors, coworkers)? Is there anyone from whom you need to seek forgiveness today?

CLOSING PRAYER: Pray for a greater understanding of who God is and what he has done for us.