

The Great Reversal – Part 3

Redefining Weakness by Pastor Omar – 4/11/21

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Philippians 4:12-13; Luke 9:23

OPENING: What stands out to you from Pastor Omar’s message?

Read 2 Cor. 12:1-10 together as a group.

A few things to consider before moving forward:

- Notice Paul received a revelation and vision, and yet in his obedience and defense of the gospel didn’t reveal it. Many people have visions, revelations, etc., but whether people need to know about it as opposed the glory of Christ is another story. And yet with the vision came a “thorn” to Paul.
- Paul’s main focus in this portion of the epistle is v. 9. That through the great visions and even the harshest of thorns, Christ’s grace is sufficient and made perfect through all weakness.
- How important was the sufficiency of Christ’s grace to Paul? Look up and make observations from some or all of the following verses:
 - Romans 3:24; 4:16; 5:15, 17, 20, 21
 - Ephesians 2:4-8; 3:7-9; 4:7
 - Paul alone references “grace” over 100 times in the NT.

TO DISCUSS:

1. How does this view of grace from Paul encourage you? Do you feel better equipped to face your weaknesses and limitations by considering the grace of God? Explain.
2. Read again 2 Corinthians 12:8-10. How do you react when God appears to be silent in answer to your urgent request? How do you feel about God’s promise in verse 9? Why doesn’t God simply take the hurt away?
3. How has God worked in and through you during a time of weakness? What do you find to be the hardest thing for you in handling suffering and extreme situations that stretch and test you?
4. Share about a time you felt helpless or hopeless in a situation. What can you do to prepare yourself for these times? How will you remind yourself of what God has done for you in the past and that you can continue to count on his love and grace in the middle of your struggle? How does being in a small group help you?
5. Look at Luke 9:23. What connection is there between taking up your cross daily and redefining weakness? What will you do to develop trust in God that you’ll rely on during times of stress and suffering?

CLOSE IN PRAYER