

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

When am I Weak Then I am Strong

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
September 26, 2021



What are you depending on to make you significant?

Boast = talk with excessive pride and self-satisfaction about one's achievements, possessions, or abilities.

2 Corinthians 12:1-7a (NLT) This boasting will do no good, but I must go on. I will reluctantly tell about visions and revelations from the Lord. ² I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know—only God knows. ³ Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know ⁴ that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell. ⁵ That experience is worth boasting about, but I'm not going to do it. I will boast only about my weaknesses. ⁶ If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message, ⁷ even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God.

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10 (NLT) So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. ⁸ Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. ⁹ Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

• **The World tells us that our significance is based on our worldly success.**

• **The Gospel tells us that our significance is based on our identity in Christ.**

2 Corinthians 5:15 [Christ] died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! ¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

What if you are wired not to be "liked" but to be loved - & not by many but by One. To aspire to friendship with God, is an ambition for something you could never lose. It is to get attention from someone who sees you and knows you and will never stop loving you...it is the opposite of fickle human attention, which is temporal and temperamental. God's attention is not predicated on your performance...He's not a father you have to shock in order to jar his attention away from the game, crying out, 'Look at me! Look at me.' God's attention is a place where you can find rest and where, in 'the father's lap', you don't have to be worried about getting attention from anyone else. You can rest. James K. A. Smith - On The Road with Saint Augustine

Big Idea: Our strength & significance comes from depending on the sufficiency of Christ.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (AMP) Therefore, I will all the more gladly boast in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ [may completely enfold me and] may dwell in me. ¹⁰ So I am well pleased with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, and with difficulties, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak [in human strength], then I am strong [truly able, truly powerful, truly drawing from God's strength].

What are you depending on to make you significant?

"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." Saint Augustine



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

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impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

When I am Weak Then I am Strong
#3 of 4 - September 26, 2021

- 1) Last week we were challenged to experience grace to expand our passion and love for God and others. Where did you see God working in your life in this regard this past week? How did your action step go?
- 2) Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 . What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passage? What interesting details do you observe? Is anything repeated? What questions come up about the passage? What surprises you in the passage? Are there connecting words or ideas?
- 4) **Meaning:** What meaning do you think people inferred from reading this letter from the Apostle Paul? What is he trying to communicate about significance, success, and identity?
- 5) What is the meaning for us? What is the "big idea" of the passage or is there a key verse?
- 6) Why are pride and self-sufficiency strong temptations for us as humans? What is the antidote for this?
- 7) What does passage this tell us about Jesus and our identity in Christ? How does this impact our view of challenges and difficulties?
- 8) **Application:** How does this passage call on you to change the way you live? What will you do this week as a result of this teaching? What aspect of this teaching do you need to pass on to others?



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