

Welcoming Weakness

Intro:

1 cor 4:1-16

Paul rebuked the Corinthians in his first letter for essentially lying on their Christian resume...they like the super apostles in this letter looked something like this...

Problem:

2 cor 11:12-15

According to an infographic from 2013 (<https://infographicsmania.com/resume-padding-statistics/>) representing Forbes business insider, Reuters and investopedia: 40 percent of people admit to lying on their resumes, 50 percent admit to misleading content on their resumes, 53 percent admit to falsehoods on their resume and a whopping 78 percent admitted to resumes that are misleading...

We value strength and intelligence and competence - the problem is we are not nearly as strong intelligent or competent as we portray...

Paul is showing these super apostles to be fakes and frauds and offers up his resume of suffering to point out that his his position, his power, and ultimately his performance was not his at all

Main Idea:

Sometimes weakness is a promotion

Sometimes weakness is a protection

Sometimes weakness is a pleasure

Implication:

2 kings 6:8-17

Why can't we see our weakness as a promotion, a protection, a pleasure?

Why can't we see His power in our weakness?

We are too focused on our own...

(Jn 3:1-3)

Nicodemus was too self sufficient to see what was in front of him

(Jn 9:35-41)

The entire gospel of John is a lesson on the folly of self sufficiency

Application:

1 cor 1:26-31

God chose those with inability, the lepers, the blind, the deaf, the paralyzed, even the dead to illustrate to us that salvation is of the Lord...He also chose you...Heaven forbid we forget it

Articles for further study:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-strength.html>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/strength-made-perfect-in-weakness.html>

<https://ask.ligonier.org/podcast-episodes/is-suffering-ever-a-punishment-for-a-christians-sin>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/christian-your-pain-is-never-punishment>

Welcoming Weakness

Text:

Sometimes weakness is a promotion

2Corinthians 11:30 ¶ **If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.**

2Corinthians 11:31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.

2Corinthians 11:32 At Damascus, the governor under **King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me,**

2Corinthians 11:33 but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

acts 9:1-25 (he came in to persecute but he left persecuted - his first act was to have to run away yet this was a promotion)

Phil 3:1-10 (Paul was drawing a supernatural contrast between the Lord and the false claims of the "super apostles")

2 cor 4:7-18 (our weakness has a purpose - to show the grace of God in our lives)

judges 7:1-8 (sometimes weakness is a promotion)

Sometimes weakness is a protection

2Corinthians 12:1 ¶ **I must go on boasting.** Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.

2Corinthians 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows.

2Corinthians 12:3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

2Corinthians 12:4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

2Corinthians 12:5 **On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses—**

2Corinthians 12:6 though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me.

2Corinthians 12:7 **So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.**

2Corinthians 12:8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

2Corinthians 12:9 But he said (perfect) to me, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."** Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

1k 10:17-20 (rejoice in the right thing - danger in power)

(2 thess 2:4 (hyperairo - conceited lifted up - this is the exact word used to describe the antichrist - the man of pride)

col 2:16-19 (how many false teachers want to be known and possess authority by their experiences and not from the Word?)

Heb 12:1-13 (What is cause of His discipline? How false modern day faith healers are - Paul did not lack faith -

there was a purpose in his suffering - The greatness of his revelation. What was the purpose? To protect him from pride - discipline is about protection from being...too strong to pray to Him, too strong to really need Him, too strong to cry out to Him, too strong to wait upon Him, too strong to cling to His promises, too strong to be weak and dependent)

2 cor 1:9 (sometimes weakness is a protection)

Sometimes weakness is a pleasure

2Corinthians 12:10 **For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses,** insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

Phil 4:4-13 (though Paul was content with weakness knowing he could do all things through Christ this was not the mindset Paul was pointing out in our passage - the word content here (autarkeis) is not the one in 2 cor 12:10...)

Phil 2:1-13 (have this mind - not about our weakness but about His power, His will, His good pleasure - same word as in 2 cor 12:10 eudokeo Paul took was not merely content but took pleasure in his weakness... because He took pleasure in God's will and work in his life...he had the mind of Christ humble and pleased with God's work in and through him - sometimes weakness is a pleasure)