

## Life Group Notes 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### 2 Corinthians 12 – God’s power in our weakness

*What did God speak to you about on Sunday? What can you remember from Rob’s message?*

(Focussing on verses 1-10) Paul is continuing his response to the “super-apostles” boasting. Paul explains how easy it would be to be filled with pride about his own visions and revelations, but was humbled by his “thorn” as a reminder of his weaknesses. Paul’s response was to pray, and then praise God for his weaknesses as this is where God’s grace and power are most demonstrated.

In response to the boasting of the false apostles, Paul shares his own experience of visions and revelations. He talks about it in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person (I know a man in Christ...) but will not boast of himself. Lenski, in his book, describes this as a “boastless boast.”

How easy is it to share spiritual experiences or ways God has used you through spiritual gifts without boasting of yourselves? Share some practical ways that help ensure God gets all the glory He deserves.

Hebrew 11 lists many people of faith. Verses 32-34 says: *“And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness.”* God is the one who makes weak people strong.

How and where do you see God’s strength demonstrated through people in the Bible? For example, consider the lives of Moses, Samson, Jacob, David, Gideon, Mary, Peter, Paul...

What encouragement do you get from these?

Consider 1 Corinthians 1:27: 27 *“But God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong”*

**If time, read through the second half of the chapter (verses 11-21) and discuss.**

How would you summarise what Paul is saying to them?

How does this section demonstrate his heart towards them?

**V9 “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”**

*“Grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us more... And grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us less... Grace means that God already loves us as much as an infinite God can possibly love.”* — Philip Yancey, What's So Amazing About Grace?

How does grace affect your daily life?

**Paul boasted of his weaknesses as he relied on God’s power.** Last week, Jenni encourage Life Groups to share their weaknesses and struggles, and to pray for one another. Depending on your group, share how these areas have been this week. How have you known God’s grace and power at work through your weaknesses?

Continue to pray for one another about specific areas and invite the Holy Spirit to fill you all again.