

# Weakness to Strength

## Paradox #3 - Pastor Gary Combs - May 28, 2017 Memorial Day Weekend- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (ESV) <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But he said 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

### Seeing our weakness as an opportunity for Christ's power:

#### 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ weakness that God allows to prevent pride.

James 4:6 (ESV) ..."God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 (ESV) But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

#### 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ weakness that God uses to perfect dependence.

2 Corinthians 3:5 (ESV) Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God

Philippians 4:19 (ESV) And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

#### 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ weakness that God permits to refocus our contentment.

Philippians 4:11-13 (NLT) ... I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

2 Corinthians 13:4 (NKJV) For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.