

C. Rely on God's strengthening grace.
"And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."
II Corinthians 12:9a

"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."
James 4:6

"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."
Acts 20:32

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."
Hebrews 4:16

IV. EXPERIENCE GOD'S GREATNESS

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

A. Walk with God in humility.
"... Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."
II Corinthians 12:9b

B. Walk with God in victory.
"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."
II Corinthians 12:10

Trade In Your Weakness For Jesus' Strength

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

Trade In Your Weakness For Jesus' Strength
Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. Are you ready for a change? The cross of Jesus Christ was the place where the great exchange took place. His all for our nothing. His righteousness for our sin. His death for our life.

And it did not end there. Through the power of the gospel many more exchanges take place today for those "in Christ".
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
II Corinthians 5:17

B. The Bible book of II Corinthians reveals seven beautiful ways Jesus can change your life. Attend The Great Exchange teaching series and discover how to trade your pain for Jesus' new life. The messages include:

Apr 16 Trade In Your Sin For Jesus' Righteousness
Apr 23 Trade In Your Depression For Jesus' Encouragement

May 1 Trade In Your Grudges For Jesus' Forgiveness

May 8 Trade In Your Discouragement For Jesus' Motivation

May 15 Trade In Your Suffering For Jesus' Perfection

May 22 Trade In Your Greed For Jesus' Generosity
TODAY Trade In Your Weakness For Jesus' Strength

Come and hear these messages learn valuable lessons for building your story today.

C. **TEXT:** II Corinthians 12:1-10

This passage tells how Paul was struggling with weakness because of a "thorn in the flesh" (12:7). We do not know the exact nature of Paul's thorn in the flesh. We do know it was some type of physical pain which was making him weak. He prayed three times to ask God to remove it (12:8) God's response was not to take away the pain. But rather to trade Paul's weakness for Jesus' strength (12:9).

HOW TO TRADE IN YOUR WEAKNESS FOR JESUS' STRENGTH

I. ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S GLORY

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31

A. Paul acknowledged God's spiritual blessings.

"It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:"
II Corinthians 12:1

*"3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—
4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

5 Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities."
II Corinthians 12:3-5

"For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me." II Corinthians 12:6

B. You should acknowledge God's spiritual blessings.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,"
Ephesians 1:3

"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,"
Ephesians 1:17

"and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,"
Ephesians 2:6

II. VALUE GOD'S GOODNESS

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

A. God uses suffering to keep you humble.

"And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure." II Corinthians 12:7

B. God uses suffering to make you holy.

"Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me." II Corinthians 12:8

*"3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;
4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope."*
Romans 5:3-4

III. RELY ON GOD'S GRACE

God's grace is His undeserved provision for your every need.

A. Rely on God's saving grace.

*"8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast."*
Ephesians 2:8-9

B. Rely on God's sufficient grace.

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God," II Corinthians 3:5

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." II Corinthians 9:8