

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Dr. Richard Morgan | Native American Baptist Missions

PRAISE - The last part of 2021 was very difficult because of the COVID and pneumonia that I caught. September was a tough month... They did not think I was going to make it but I know God has something else for me to do. Praise the Lord for His healing!

PRAY - I would appreciate your prayers for my truck as it has some extensive damage that will require expensive repair work. Without a vehicle I will be in trouble during the Summer months. Please pray God either provides funding or another vehicle for me to use.

GROWTH GUIDE

The Great Exchange

Handout: 05/22/22

Study: 05/29/22

Exchanging Weakness For Jesus’ Strength

Many of the principles of God’s kingdom are paradoxes. When the apostle Paul pleaded with God to remove his affliction—one he called a “thorn in the flesh”—the Lord said to Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:8–9, NKJV). The New Living Translation says, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” God’s strength is made perfect in weakness because He delights in taking situations where human strength is lacking to demonstrate the greatness of His power.

God’s denial of Paul’s request for healing turned out to be a blessing in the apostle’s life. One commentary explains that the thorn “kept Paul from imagining himself as a spiritual superman, and revealed to him the reality of his human mortality and weakness despite his extraordinary revelations. The ‘thorn’ also kept Paul pinned close to the Lord, in trust and confidence” (Barnett, P., *The Message of 2 Corinthians: Power in Weakness*, InterVarsity Press, 1988, p. 178).

Paul stopped protesting his situation and began to boast and even take pleasure in his weakness so that the power of Christ could work through him: “That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10). Paul expressed the paradox of his condition—that in his frailty, he was strong because his strength came from Christ.

The words made perfect in 2 Corinthians 12:9 mean “fully or entirely accomplished or made complete.” Christ’s power is made complete—it is able to fully accomplish its purpose—when His people are weak and depend on Him for strength. When we, like Paul, stop resisting and complaining and let the power of Christ rest on us, we make room to receive countless unexpected blessings from the Lord. By allowing God’s strength to be made perfect in our weakness, we have the opportunity to display God’s glory flawlessly. “The grace and power of God interlock with human lives at the point of mortal weakness,” writes Barnett (op. cit., p. 179).

God’s strength is made perfect in weakness when we put our faith and trust in Him. The Lord’s presence is all we need in times of weakness. His great power and sufficiency rest on us as we find our strength in Him, and He is glorified. We can say with the psalmist, “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” (Psalm 73:26).

Source: Gotquestions.org

KEY VERSE

II Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV)

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: II Corinthians 12:1-10; Isaiah 40:29-31; Psalm 73:26

Introduction

1. What types of weakness did Paul write about in II Corinthians 12? How do you experience these weaknesses in your life?
2. Describe a time when God's grace was sufficient for you.

Tuesday: II Corinthians 12:1-6; Ephesians 1:3, 17; 2:6

Acknowledge God's Glory

3. What reasons might Paul have had to boast in himself? What was Paul willing to boast in?
4. What spiritual blessings have you received? How do they show God's glory in your life?

Wednesday: II Corinthians 12:7-8; Romans 5:3-4, 8:28

Value God's Goodness

5. How did God use suffering in Paul's life?
6. How has God used suffering in your life?

Thursday: II Corinthians 12:9, 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Heb. 4:16

Rely On God's Grace

7. List words or phrases that describe God's grace based upon today's readings.
8. What role does grace play in salvation?
9. When it comes to your life, do you tend to rely on yourself or rely on God's sufficiency? What are some areas of your life where it is easy for you to fall into feeling self sufficient?

Friday: II Cor. 12:9-10; Philippians 4:13; Isaiah 43:2

Experience God's Greatness

10. How is it possible to boast in our weaknesses?
11. How has God shown His strength in your weakness?
12. This week we are completing our series, "The Great Exchange". What has God taught you through this series?