

Reflection Questions: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

For the message, "Boasting In Our Weakness" given by Pastor John Ferguson
at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on May 27, 2018

These discussion questions are designed primarily to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the sermon, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

A summary of the message: The Apostle Paul pleaded with the Lord to remove his thorn in the flesh that had been gifted to him. But the Lord told him that His grace is sufficient, that His power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore Paul learned to boast in his weakness because, as he says, "When I am weak, then I am strong." There is grace for today, and tomorrow's grace will be there tomorrow.

Key Points:

- We are called to embrace weakness, to learn the secret of contentment, and to rest in the promise of God's all-sufficient grace.

Key Quotes:

- "There is no circumstance, no trouble, no testing, that can ever touch me until, first of all, it has gone past God and past Christ right through to me. If it has come that far, it has come with great purpose, which I may not understand at the moment" (Alan Redpath)
- "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:11-13)

Bottom Line:

- Embracing my weakness is a prerequisite to experiencing God's power.
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Let's get started...

- How are you challenged, convicted, encouraged, or surprised by this text? What questions or thoughts does it prompt in your mind?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Why do you think it's so hard to embrace weakness and limitations, especially when we've desired and prayed for things to be different?
- God told the Apostle Paul in response that this thorn in his flesh be removed, "My grace is sufficient for you. My power is made perfect in weakness." How is that response both discouraging and encouraging?

- The Apostle Paul learned to boast in his weaknesses: “When I am weak, then I am strong.” How would you explain this paradox to someone? (cf. Philippians 4:13).
- How does this text clarify what God wants to do in my life, through my weaknesses, limitations, and “thorns in the flesh?”

2. Let’s think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus’ followers.

- What kind of community of faith is this text calling us to become? What might that look like?
- How does this passage indicate what God might want to do not merely for us or in us, but through us?

3. Let’s think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this passage challenge the way our city normally thinks about boasting?
- What do you think it would look like if Christians in our city were known more for their “boasting” in weaknesses rather than boasting in our strengths or having it all together? What do you think the implications might be?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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