



SERMON NOTES & QUOTES

1. We Want to Impress – Weakness Keeps Us Humble

- Paul experienced a divine vision of heaven—but he didn't boast in it.
- To keep him humble, God gave him a "thorn" (specifics unknown, but purposeful).
- Humility is the soil where grace grows.
- "For those who would learn God's ways, humility is the first thing, humility is the second thing, humility is the third." St. Augustine

2. We Want to Fix Things – Weakness Drives Us to Prayer

- Paul didn't hide his struggle, he...
 - Ran to God
 - Repeated the ask
 - Respected the Answer
- Instead of relief, God gave him something better: His presence.
- Mature faith runs to God rather than relying on self-sufficiency.

3. We Want Control – Weakness Invites God's Grace

- God's answer: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
- Grace isn't just pardon—it's power.
 - Grace: "Goodwill freely disseminated (by God); especially to the benefit of the recipient regardless of the benefit accrued to the disseminator."
- When we lose control, God's sufficient grace takes center stage.
- "God's grace being sufficient means that what God gives you in your weakness is more powerful than what you could gain in your strength." - Pastor Joe

4. We Want Relief – Weakness Teaches Us to Rejoice in What We Used to Resent

- Paul's weakness became the very place where God's power dwelled.
- He didn't glorify suffering—but he glorified God in his suffering.
- Resentment turns to rejoicing when we view weakness as sacred ground.

MAY MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:1-2