

Great Reversals

2 Corinthians Overview

- God's strength is displayed through CHRISTLIKE humble LEADERSHIP. ch. 1-3
- God's strength is displayed through CROSS-shaped MINISTRY. ch. 4-7
- God's strength is displayed through SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY. ch. 8-9
- God's strength is displayed through our WEAKNESS and SUFFERING. ch. 10-13

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Read 2 Corinthians 3:4-5. In what areas of your life are you a leader? What are some practical ways you could exercise Christlike humble leadership?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 2:14. How does it change your perspective to understand that this is picturing you as a conquered slave? How does that affect how you view your daily life? (See 1 Cor 6:19-20; 7:23; Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 1:18-19) How can we live this out?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-7. What is the treasure? What is the jar of clay? What is the significance of this imagery? How does this help us understand 2 Corinthians 4:8-11?
4. How are you serving God right now? What does it look like for you to model your service to God after the cross of Jesus?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. Why is giving such a hot-button issue in the church? How should Christians think about it? Is it a mandate, or is it optional? (see 2 Corinthians 8:7-8; Proverbs 3:9-10; Matthew 6:2-4, 24; 1 Tim 6:6-10; 1 Tim 5:17-18)
6. Read 2 Corinthians 9:11. What are some other ways God may be calling you to be generous besides financially? Is this difficult or easy for you? Why?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. In your life what area of weakness does God want to turn into a trophy of His grace? Practically, how can we allow God to use our weaknesses to display his strength?

2 CORINTHIANS OUTLINE:

1-7 Explanation of Paul's apostolic ministry (to the repentant)

1:1-11 – Prologue

1:12-3:18 – Paul's leadership

4:1-7:16 – Paul's ministry

8-9 Encouragement of sacrificial generosity (to the repentant)

10-13 Defense of Paul's apostolic ministry (to the rebellious)

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle