



Boasting in Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:1-2 | Thomas Slager

As a group, read 2 Corinthians 12:1-2, Isaiah 53.

1. Describe the “big picture” you see in 2 Corinthians 11:22-33 and 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. What is going on here? What important issues is Paul addressing in these verses?
2. The church leaders in Corinth were boasting about how great they were and at the same time were looking down on Paul’s authority to oversee their spiritual growth. How does Paul reason with the church leaders in this passage? How does Paul say that he is qualified to speak to them?
3. Paul labels the issue as the Corinthian Church and it’s leaders “boasting” about their success, how they were wise,, their superior knowledge, and how Paul wasn’t really qualified to have a say in the problems or direction of their church. How does Paul respond to this argument in 1 Corinthians 11:22-33. Have you ever had to deal with someone who thinks they have “all the answers”?
4. Thomas shared that people are really seeking three things when they boast about themselves. They want to be loved, they want to belong, and they want to be accepted. If this is the case, How can we as Believers deal with people who are sold on themselves?
5. Paul talks about the special way God dealt with him to keep him humble. He said that a “thorn was given me in his flesh”, and satan allowed to “harass me to keep me from becoming conceited”. Discuss 2 Corinthians 12:9. What can we learn from Paul’s testimony?
6. Paul concludes his argument with the Corinthians, by saying, instead of boasting about my position, hardships, or accomplishments, I will gladly boast of my weaknesses. Read verse 12 again and share how weaknesses are strengths for us as Believers.
7. How has God worked through your weakness? Share an example of where you were weak that God worked and was glorified.
8. How can you apply this passage to your life?