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# POWER IN HUMILITY

## I. We Often Struggled Admitting We Need Help

- a. Ever had a moment where you were lost but refused to ask for directions?
- b. Feeling in control can be a dangerous illusion.
- c. Some challenges are too big for us to handle.
- d. Where should we turn when problems arise?

## II. Paul's Thorn

- a. The Corinthian church believed they were "super-spiritual" Christians. They valued knowledge and power.
  - i. They didn't like Paul's humility or perceived weaknesses.
  - ii. The church preferred leaders who boasted of their own greatness.
- b. **2 Corinthians 12:6-7** (NIV), *"Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me."*
  - i. Thorn was a figure of speech describing "excruciating pain"
  - ii. Torment is a present-tense verb that implies "being slapped around."
- c. When we face these kinds of challenges, our response is often to search for ways that we can respond to them.
  - i. The focus is on what I can do. My power or wisdom.
  - ii. It's lacking the humility to stop and ask for help.
  - iii. **Proverbs 3:5** (NIV), *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;"*

## III. God's Grace

- a. **2 Corinthians 12:8-9** (NIV), *"Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."*

- b. Jesus answered Paul's prayer with the promise of His grace.
- c. God grace is enough to satisfy Paul's needs.
- d. Dallas Willard, *"Grace is God working in my life to bring about what I cannot do on my own."*
- e. **Psalm 23:4** (NIV), *"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."*
  - i. Jesus leads ahead of us and beside us.
  - ii. We don't have to fear the thorns ,or evil, because God is with us.

#### IV. Power in Weakness

- a. If our focus on is our own power, then we rob ourselves of God's power.
- b. The word "perfect" means the realization of something hoped for, fulfillment.
- c. **James 4:6** (NET), *"But he gives greater grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble."*
- d. **2 Corinthians 12:9** (NIV), *"Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."*
- e. "Rest" carries the idea of taking up residence or settling down.
  - i. Humbling yourself to seek God's help invites His presence into your life.
  - ii. Don't squeeze God out of your life.
- f. Jesus gives us the power to win.
  - i. **Romans 8:37** (NIV), *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."*

#### V. Our Boast

- a. Our boast is not in what we can do; it is what God can do.
- b. Jesus can't be the focus of our life if our focus is on ourselves.
- c. Your situation may not change immediately, but change has begun in you because your faith is in Christ and his power is at work.