

Am I Stronger Than My Weaknesses?

2 Corinthians 12:1-10



**What kind of life
should we expect
in Christ?**

2 Corinthians 12:1-7



A Life Filled With Highs and Lows

- Paul as an apostle experienced the third heaven, paradise, and heard unspeakable words from God – 2 Cor. 12:1-4
- Instead of exalting himself by the vision, he boasts in his weaknesses – 12:5-6
- Paul was given a “thorn in the flesh” – 12:7
 - A messenger of Satan to “buffet” him
 - Unknown as to its nature, but seems to include persecutions – 11:30-33; 12:10
 - Christians experience “highs” and “lows”...and we can't reject the “lows”!

God Does Not Remove All The “Thorns”

2 Corinthians 12:8-10



The “Thorns” of Life

- Paul asked God to remove his “thorn” – 12:8
- God refused and answered that His grace was sufficient for Paul to serve – 12:9
 - While the world wants grace to remove all weaknesses, true grace gives power to sustain us through times of weakness.
 - When enduring through weakness by God’s power, we follow Christ – 2 Cor. 13:4
 - Paul would, therefore, boast in his weaknesses, because through them God’s power rested upon him – 12:9b

The “Thorns” of Life

- Paul was content to endure his weaknesses, because in them He was strong in Christ – 12:10
 - Paul took pleasure in his weaknesses, seeing that God’s power had pulled him through – Phil. 4:11-13
 - So, as Christians we should by the power of Christ be stronger than our weaknesses!

**How are we to
deal with inner
weaknesses of the
flesh and mind?**



We All Have Inner Weaknesses

- Paul had them – 1 Cor. 9:27; 2 Cor. 1:8-9
- These weaknesses come in the form of individual susceptibilities to certain sins and attitudes.
 - Susceptibility is not the same as sin, seeing that God is not glorified through my sinful choices and actions.
- Weaknesses of the flesh and mind must be overcome through the power of God!
 - Only by God's grace in the form of power through Christ can we overcome – Heb. 2:17-18; 4:14-16

We Must Be Committed!

- Victory requires:
 - A firm resolve to walk in the way of the spirit – Gal. 5:16
 - That we put away sin and make no provisions for the flesh to fulfill its lust – Rom. 13:12-14
- There is hope for those who sin who seek to walk in the light of God's word – 1 John 1:7, 9
- As Christians living by the power of God in Christ, we can and must be stronger than our weaknesses!

Conclusion

- Remember: “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 Jn. 4:4).
- This will always be true for those who live by faith and seek God’s strength to endure and triumphantly overcome.
- Will you come to Jesus today and overcome in Him today?