
[SERMON NOTES]

The Church of Philadelphia (*Revelation 3:7-13*)

- No matter how many closed _____ you face, Jesus has _____ the door of His kingdom.
- _____ is not the problem, rather looking for it in the wrong places is.
- Recognizing our weakness _____ us to find true _____ in Jesus.
(2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- Waiting on God weighs our _____ in God.
- We can keep on because Jesus hasn't _____ !

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

What is the hardest thing you've ever done or accomplished? (ex: run a marathon, etc.)

[DIGGING DEEPER]

The ancient church in Philadelphia received a glowing review from Jesus. They saw open doors, relied on Jesus' strength to walk through them, and were faithful to the Word. That shouldn't seem spectacular, but it was - and it is. Whenever we try to rely on our strength over Jesus' we will always miss out on what the Spirit might do through us. ***Describe someone and how they go about like who embodies living in the strength of Jesus over their own.***

Take some time to read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 provided below. Then, (circle) all repetitive words as well as similar terms you see in this passage.

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. 3 And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— 4 was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. 5 I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. 6 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, 7 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. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 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. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

What do you notice about the recurring words in this passage? And why do you think they're included in a section about walking faithfully with God?

One of the recurring words is "boast" - a term used to describe the object of someone's strength.
What would you say you boast or brag about most in life?

While the passage above is Paul's example from His own life, Jesus also exemplified the notion of finding strength in weakness. ***Read Philippians 2:1-11.***

What are the characteristics of Christ that seem counterintuitive to the strength of the world?

With these passages in mind, what seems to be the end result and by-product of embracing our weakness in our relationship with Jesus?

The process of walking closer with Jesus in this life (which never ends by the way!) is called *sanctification*. What this means is we should continually be inviting Jesus to rearrange our hearts, minds, decisions and everything else to live for His glory. No one is perfect, even though we have received the power of the Spirit. We all still battle with trying in our strength to live with Jesus. *Take some time to pray and ask for the Spirit to lead and fill in these breath prayers...*
- (ex: Lord, even in my anger, reveal to me your mercy and be my strength.)

Lord, even in my _____, reveal to me your mercy and be my strength.

Lord, even in my _____, reveal to me your mercy and be my strength.

Lord, even in my _____, reveal to me your mercy and be my strength.

Commit to praying these throughout the week as they arise in your life.

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

Philippians 2 Philippians 3 Colossians 1 Romans 8