

Commending Ourselves as Servants of God
God's Power Made Perfect in our Weakness
II Corinthians 12:6-9

1. God's mission – Using His power
 - a. God used His power to work through creation
 - i. Hebrews 11:1-3
 - b. God used His power to raise Jesus from the dead, inaugurate His rule, and raise us to be His workmanship
 - i. Ephesians 1:15-2:10
 - c. God uses His power to strengthen us with power through the holy Spirit
 - i. Christ lives in our hearts through faith
 1. Ephesians 3:16
 - ii. He is able to do things beyond what we ask or think as He desires
 1. Colossians 1:10-12, 28-29
 - iii. We know that we are weak – imperfect and incomplete -- yet He overcomes our knowledge of ourselves
 1. II Corinthians 12:9-11, 13:1-4 esp. 13:4
2. Understanding “perfect” power
 - a. From G5048
 - b. Strong, ... to *complete*, that is, (literally) *accomplish*, or (figuratively) *consummate*(in character): - consecrate, finish, fulfil, (make) perfect.
3. Our focus – Letting His power work by acknowledging our weakness
 - a. God empowers new life as we deny self so that He can permit us to live in Him
 - i. The message of the cross – Jesus dying and being raised for our forgiveness and new life in Him – gives firm expectation of our victory
 1. Romans 1:16-17
 2. I Corinthians 1:18-25
 - ii. We join Jesus in baptism and daily denying self
 1. Luke 9:18-27
 - iii. If we refuse to humbly recognize the weakness of the old self, we will not be empowered by letting Jesus live in us
 - b. God empowers our life in Christ through fellow Christians as we love and serve one another spiritually
 - i. Rely on fellow Christians to help because each is weak in some skill or ability where others are stronger
 1. Romans 12:3-9
 2. Ephesians 4:11-16, esp. 4:15
 - ii. Rely on God's provision as we use His gifts to serve physically
 1. II Corinthians 8-9
 - iii. If we are unwilling to humbly recognize our own needs and areas of weakness, we will not be empowered by letting Jesus grow in us
 - c. God empowers our life in Christ as we humbly acknowledge that we lack power over circumstances in our lives as we do His will, even in our weakness

- i. Use the comfort that God has used with us to comfort others who are suffering
 - 1. II Corinthians 1:3-7; 8:12
- ii. Recognize that God allows suffering so that we can see that it is God's power and not our own that allows us to overcome
 - 1. II Corinthians 4:7-12
- iii. If we are unwilling to humbly recognize God's will in the hard places, we will not be empowered by letting Him comfort us