

The Two Sides of the Gospel

April 30 2017

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

What Was Paul's Thorn in the Flesh? (2 Cor 12:7)

1. A physical ailment such as migraine headaches, epilepsy, or progressive blindness (Galatians 4)
2. A psychological ailment such as an anxiety disorder or depression, or sexual temptation.
3. A mission ailment such as persecution or adversaries in the cities he traveled to.

A Better Understanding of 2nd Corinthians 12:9

In the NIV translation, "made perfect" is translated from the Greek word *teleo*.

Teleo: "to bring to a close, to finish, to end" (Revelation 10:7, 11:7, Matthew 11:1, Romans 13:6)

Instead of "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness," try this on: "My grace is sufficient for you, for your (Paul's) power is brought to its end in weakness."

Embracing weakness means personal power is brought to its end and God's power within is initiated.

"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."
- Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Worldly Way: Public Performance, Private Failures

Godly Way: Public Confession, Private Devotion

The Two Sides of the Gospel

1. I'm a complete idiot.
2. My future is incredibly bright.

Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever found yourself stuck focusing only on the 1st "side" of the Gospel? What were the circumstances?
- What is your own thorn in the flesh? What is the thing that made you feel weak but kept you humble and reliant upon God's strength?
- We can easily declare our weaknesses as a way to gain attention or sympathy. What does godly awareness and declaration of weakness look like to you?



Next Sunday, May 7

"Checkup Time"

Join us for worship, teaching and Communion as we journey through II Corinthians.