DISCOVER YOUR Strength



Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1–10 (ESV)
Title: Discover Your Strength
Thought: The power of God is working in you
Topic: Gods help when you need it
Teaching: How God uses his strength to help us
Topic Introduction:

Story Review:
In the last message I shared with you how I visited a rehab facility where most of the patients didn't have the strength to walk, they were bedridden or confined to wheelchairs and even those in wheelchairs still needed to be pushed.

Story Recap:
We said it's the same way for believers; we don't have the strength to do to get where were going on our own we need a push from God. We need Gods help, we must do everything within our power, then when our power runs out rely on God power.

Sermon Sentence:
Every believer needs a push from God; we need a strength greater than our own
When our strength runs out, God strength kicks in, when were weak he's strong

Sermon Saying
With Christ Your weakness can becomes your greatest strength
Your greatest strength is God using his strength to help you … Eph 3:20

Blessing Paragraph:
God's grace makes us the difference in the areas we fall short
God fills in the gaps to make sure we have enough wherever we fall short

Problem Paragraph:
We struggle in areas where we are weak, we don't recognize it or won't admit it
God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us with our weakness…Roman 8:26

Challenge Paragraph:
To discover your strength, you must first know your weakness
Understand where your weak and rely on Gods strength in that area

Text Background

Paul established the church of Corinth on his second missionary journey.
The first letter he wrote was to correct errors that were happening in the church. However, the first letter was not so well received.

In Paul's absence false apostles turned the church against him
They essentially challenged Paul's authority and his credentials. So, the church began to view Paul as illegitimate, and as a result they rejected his authority

Paul makes another visit to the church in Corinth
He writes this letter in response to that visit to commemorate the reconciliation of their relationship, and to address those who still opposed Paul's authority.

In chapter 11 Paul defends his authority as an apostle
Paul says ok if you want to talk credentials, I can tell you about my experience and accomplishments however, I don't rely on my own abilities, I rely on Gods strength.

Paul says, My Goal is it Glorify My Savior
Paul says I don't want people to see me as some great person; my goal is not to promote myself; I want people to see the greatness of the one I serve, Jesus.

Paul Says I Have Discovered Where My Strength Comes From
My strength doesn't come from me; it comes to me; Jesus is the true source of our strength, we can do all things through him, but we can do nothing without him

TO DISCOVER YOUR STRENGTH, YOU MUST

I. IDENTIFY YOUR PURPOSE

A. What Do You Need Strength For

1. God will give us supernatural strength if we have the proper motives
2. The proper motivation to seek God for strength is to do his will
3. You need Gods strength; without him we can do nothing… John 15:5

B. You Need Strength for Your Purpose

1. God promises to be with us and strengthen us… Isa 41:10
2. God uses his strength for our good according to his purpose… Rom 8:28
3. Our ultimate purpose is to obey God, obeying God makes us strong… Jer 7:22-23

4. God gives us the strength we need to do his will Zechariah 4:6
5. When I do a project for UPS, they provide the resources to get the job done
6. Pharoah didn't let Isreal go because moses asked nicely, God used his power
7. Moses went to pharaoh in the power of Gods strength not his own
8. God gives us access to his spirit and his power… Micah 3:8
9. God gives us power and authority to operate on his behalf…Luke 9:1
10. God strengthens us to make sure we succeed… Jer 1:8

II. YOUR PURPOSE IS TO GLORIFY GOD… 1ST Peter 2:9

A. Everything You Do Should Be for The Glory of God

1. When making decision we should ask, will this glorify God
2. Do it all for the glory of God… 1st Cor 10:31
3. The purpose of your lite is to glorify God… Matt 5:16

B. Everything We Have Should Be used for The Glory of God

1. We are commanded to glorify God in body, mind, and spirit
2. glorify God in your body and in your spirit… 1st Cor 6:20
3. The bible says we must submit our bodies as a sacrifice

C. To Glorify God Is to Promote Character and Attributes

1. We glorify God for His Holiness… Psa 99:9
2. We glorify God for his Mercy and truth… Psa 115:1
3. We glorify God for his faithfulness… Isa 25:1
4. We glorify God for his Wondrous works… Mt 15:31
5. We glorify God for his deliverance… Ps 50:15
6. We glorify God with the testimony of our words and lifestyle
7. We glorify God by trusting in his promises… Rom 4:20
8. God is glorified when we fulfill his purpose for our lives
8. God is glorified when we do good works in his name… Matt 5:16
9. The father is glorified when we bear much fruit… John 15:8
10. The father is glorified when we are healed… Luke 13:13

III. YOU MUST IDETIFY THE THINGS THAT KEEP YOU WEAK

A. Trusting in your own strength will keep you weak

1. Jesus said apart from him we can do nothing

B. There Is Nothing to Be Gained When You Boast About Yourself

1. Boasting is the expression of self-confidence and self-reliance
2. Boasting in self is the opposite of glorifying God… Eph 2:8
3. Pride is a hindrance to Glorifying Jesus and advancing the kingdom
4. How can God get the glory if you're keeping it all for yourselves… Jer 9:23-24
5. God does not share his glory Isa 42:8
6. The desire to be great can lead to embezzlement of Gods glory
7. To embezzle is to misappropriate something that isn't yours
8. Enron was accused of embezzling 11 billion (people retirement)
9. To claim credit for yourself, is to embezzle glory from God.
10. Will a man rob God, in tithes and offering, and in glory

C. Boasting in Self Takes Attention Away from God … James 4:16

1. Paul is boasting against his better judgement in a figurative manner
2. Paul is boasting to answer those who question his credentials
3. He's showing that he could boast about himself but chooses not to
4. Boasting will get in the way of his purpose of glorifying God
5. Your accomplishment should be a part of your testimony
6. Your testimony is about who God is to you, and what he's done for you
7. I can talk about what I have, but let people know God gave it to me
8. I can talk about what I've done, but let people know God enabled me
9. God gives us the blessing, but he reserves the glory for himself
10. The bible says those who exalt themselves will be brough low

D. Seeking Validation Will Make You Weak… Gal 1:10

1. We cannot make the mistake of making ministry about us…John 12:43
2. When we make it about us, we seek to prove ourselves instead of promoting God
3 World often overlooks who God has ordained… 1st Thess 2:4
4. Paul was assigned by God, but they questioned his authenticity
5. The church put Paul in a position to boast, they said prove yourself

6. We are tempted to boast when we feel like we're in competition
7. We must realize our call comes with criticism and rejection
8. When you go into ministry someone will always question your motives
9. When God appoints you, someone will always question your authority
10. When God anoints you, someone will always question your ability