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

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:
It's the same for believers; spiritually many are in wheelchairs we don't have the strength to get where were going 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 Identify 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
B. You Need Strength for Your Purpose

II. YOUR PURPOSE IS TO GLORIFY GOD… *show forth his praise* *1st Peter 2:9*
A. Everything You Do Should Be for The Glory of God
B. Everything We Have Should Be used for The Glory of God
C. To Glorify God Is to Promote Character and Attributes

1. We glorify God by trusting in his promises…
Romans 4:20 "20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;"

2. We glorify God when we do good works in his name…
Matthew 5:16 "16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

3. We glorify God when we bear much fruit…
John 15:8 "8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

4. We glorify God when we get healed

Luke 13:13 "13 And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God."

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…

Ephesians 2:8 KJV 1900

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

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

Isaiah 42:8 "8 I am the Lord: that is my name: And my glory will I not give to another, Neither my praise to graven images."

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 "16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil."

1. Boasting will get in the way of his purpose of glorifying God
2. Your accomplishment should be a part of your testimony
3. Your testimony is about who God is to you, and what he's done for you
4. I can talk about what I have, but let people know God gave it to me
5. I can talk about what I've done, but let people know God enabled me
6. God gives us the blessing, but he reserves the glory for himself
7. The bible says those who exalt themselves will be brough low

D. Seeking Validation Will Make You Weak…

Galatians 1:10 "10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

1. We cannot make the mistake of making ministry about us…

John 12:43 "43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."

2. When we make it about us, we seek to prove ourselves instead of promoting God

3 World often overlooks who God has ordained…

1 Thessalonians 2:4 "4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."

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

VI. BOASTING IN GOD BRINGS STRENGHT

A. Combat Criticism by Giving Glorify God

1 Corinthians 15:10 "10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain...

1. The false teacher boasted in their credentials
2. To boast means to show off, false teachers show off, instead of showing Jesus
3. Paul says there is nothing to be gained by showing off

4. Paul intends to show that any boasting should be in God not self

1 Corinthians 1:31 "31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

5. When a fiancé shows off her ring, who gets the glory, the one who bought it
6. When we show off the ring of Salvation Jesus gets the glory
7. Christ is glorified when we correct error with truth
8. Christ is glorified when we have success and we give him the credit
9. False teacher will always seek to glorify themselves at the expense of Christ
10. Boasting is evidence that one does not understand salvation and grace