

My Story: Paul

June 30, 2019

1. Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
2. The Apostle Paul was given a thorn by God to keep him from becoming proud due to the visions he had seen. Why do you think God was concerned with Paul becoming proud? How might Paul's ministry have looked different if it weren't for the thorn/weakness he experienced?
3. Adam talked about the types of thorns scholars believe Paul may have experienced. What types of thorns or weaknesses have you experienced?
4. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:9.**
Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

How did Paul's weakness make him a better conduit for God's grace and power to work through him?

5. Read these verses and discuss how they help you understand the struggles that you face in life and the purpose God may have for them:

Romans 5:3-4

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

James 1:2-4

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.

6. Has the vulnerability you have experienced in your group been helpful and encouraging for you? How has vulnerability made your group stronger?
7. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's message and how do you plan to respond to it?