

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

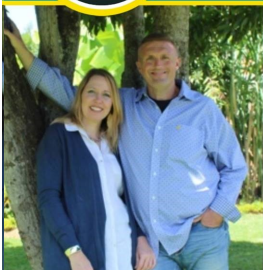
Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Phil and Vala Long | Madagascar



PRAISE

- The church that was started in 2023 with 45 people in June, had over 245 people at Christmas including an 10 teenagers who have accepted Christ.
- Praise God for people who are hungry to learn, we recently started a take-home Bible study course and we ran out of booklets.
- Praise God for a successful school supplies outreach which resulted in people coming to Church and accepting Christ.

PRAY

- Pray for the the 1st round of baptisms, specifically for a location and for understanding.
- Pray for the Long’s visas. So far they have had short-term visas. Please pray that they are able to get a long-term visa.



Handout: 02/25/24

Study Date: 03/03/24

Empowering Grace

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast, in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
— II Corinthians 12:9

God’s kingdom does not operate like any earthly kingdom. It doesn’t play by the rules of the world. We see that clearly in this passage. The 2 Corinthians 12:9 meaning points out that Jesus’ power is perfected in our weakness. Which is not how our world operates.

In our culture, we downplay our weaknesses and focus on our strengths. We place the pressure on our own strength to get by. When God says “My grace is sufficient for you” and “My strength is made perfect in weakness” we tend to struggle to apply it to our lives.

This is a powerful verse that flies in the face of what our culture teaches us. And I think there are some powerful lessons in the meaning of 2 Corinthians 12:9 that we need to hear today. It might be tough to hear, but it’s needed.

2 Corinthians is a letter that was written by the Apostle Paul to the church in Corinth. This church had some problems. Really, not too different than the Western church. One of the issues was their reliance on and longing for earthly things. They even boasted about what they had.

In contrast, Paul starts off 2 Corinthians 12 boasting not in what he had, but rather in who God is. Not only does he boast in God, but he highlights his own weakness. Something the Corinthian people would never do.

Paul famously says in 2 Corinthians 12:7 that he has a “thorn in his flesh.” He’s pointing to his weakness to prove his point. God’s grace is sufficient, his power is enough. God can, and will, overcome our weaknesses.

That’s what leads Paul to say of God, “my strength is made perfect in weakness.” Paul’s point is that we are all weak. But God is strong.

The church in Corinth thought they had it all together and boasted in what they had. Paul is showing them the foolishness of that sentiment. Rather than boasting about their supposed strengths they should boast about their weakness.

Paul has deployed a valuable lesson to the Corinthians. If you have nothing in this life but Jesus you have enough.

Resource: rethinknow.org

KEY VERSE

II Corinthians 12: 9 (NKJV)

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast, in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: II Corinthians 12:9; II Corinthians 12:5,7

Live Humbly In God's Will

1. In paragraph 6 on page 1 we see Paul's statement to the Corinthians of "having a thorn in his flesh." Have YOU admitted to the thorn in yours?
2. In II Corinthians 12:9 our Lord makes the statement "*My grace is sufficient for you...*" Are there times when YOU feel His grace is not enough?
3. "Who" is II Corinthians 12:5 telling us we *should* boast about and why?

Tuesday: Psalm 46:1; Hebrews 4:16

Call Out For God's Help

4. In Psalm 46:1 we're told that "*God is our refuge and strength.*" How many times in your "walk" have you found this to be true?
5. *Who* has enabled us as believers to "*come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy?*"

Wednesday: Acts 20:32; II Corinthians 12:9a

Fill Your Mind With God's Word

6. What will result from reading God's word according to Acts: 20:32?
7. How would YOU explain the scripture "*for my strength is made perfect in weakness*" in II Corinthians 12:9a?

Thursday: II Corinthians 12:9b-10; Psalm 84:11; Isaiah 40:29,31

Hold On To God's Promises

8. In II Corinthians 12:9a-10 Paul tells us he would rather "*boast in his Infirmitie*s" and take pleasure in distress. What's he *gaining* from this?
9. Referencing Psalm 84:11. *Who* are those that walk "uprightly"?
10. Isaiah 40:29 tells us that "*He gives power to the weak.*" What does *He* promise to "those who wait on the Lord" in verse 31?

Friday: II Corinthians 12:14; Titus 1:4; Galatians 6:2

Accept Support From God's People

11. In II Corinthians 12:14, what was Paul trying to achieve with the people?
12. In Titus 1: 4, Paul addresses Titus as "*a true son in our common faith.*" Why do you think Paul refers to Titus as "a true son"?
13. As brothers and sisters in Christ we are called to "*bear one another's burdens*" in Galatians 6:2 How often do you take this opportunity?