**Living The Extraordinary Life II**

**2nd Corinthians 12:9 NIV**

*But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”*

*Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.*

This message will be useful to you within the next 5 years!

**Be A Star!**

Paul was a leader with a problem, while doing what God had called him to do; while setting the foundation of the church. Now, this problem has not been revealed in the Bible but we do know that Paul had prayed repeatedly and perfectly asking in faith for God to remove it. Even while Paul had the ability to heal others we know and understand from this scripture he could not heal himself. What we learn in this scripture is God enabled Paul to be a steward or manageably live with this problem and still be a star for God. Paul, who has written majority of the New Testament, had a thorn in his side. His problem was painful! What Paul is saying in this scripture is that God’s grace is sufficient though it may not undo the pain you are experiencing; He can give you the power over the problem. Many times in Christian lives we allow the pain and difficulties to prevent us from coming to Church. That’s exactly when you need to run not walk to the House of the Lord! You find yourself allowing your circumstances to pull you away from Christ instead of pulling you into His bosom where there is love, peace, security and guidance to deal with your issues. You have allowed your feelings to keep you from receiving the power to become an overcomer. Like Paul, God may have allowed this pain to keep you humble and to keep you praying. Sometimes when all is well with you, you have a tendency to become self-sufficient. You allow the cares and distractions of this world interrupt quality time with God and His word. You’ve become too busy but not busy with God and your God time is usually the first thing to go. According to this scripture God wants us to be God sufficient. He wants to be a part of your daily life enabling you to do great and marvelous things that you would not be able to without His power.

**God is saying “In your weakness my strength is made perfect!”**

**Spiritual Evaluation**

What separates Christians from the world is the way we handle our problems. It’s not to say we don’t have the same problems as the world but we deal with our problems differently. At least we should. Church should be a place where you come to be transformed. Sadly a lot of people go to Church and just become informed. There see no victory in their lives. The question you must begin to ask is where am I spiritually? Have you done a spiritual evaluation? If you don’t stop from time to time and evaluate your spiritual condition you won’t know what areas need to be transformed. In school the teacher provides a syllabus which maps out the course for the student. This allows the student to understand the purpose of the course and what assignments have priority. In the same way you need to map out your spiritual life in order to begin to work with God on being transformed. You need to know where you are, where you are going and how God is going to take you there. You have to map out a plan for your spiritual life. Just going to church on Sunday is not enough to empower you to receive transformation. You must have your own personal time with God in study and in prayer otherwise you will end up spiritually deformed because you aren’t nourishing your spirit properly. How much time are you spending time with God? What about your prayer time? Is your time in prayer being spent only on you or are you praying for others? Are you seeing answers to your prayers?

**Emotional Hygiene**

You teach children at a young age they need to take a bath. You teach them how to clean and brush their teeth. With emotional hygiene you have to learn to wash away and cleanse yourself of the things that don’t matter and the things you don’t have control over. You must rid yourself of the things that have been said and done to you that aren’t uplifting and encouraging. You need to wash them away. Don’t wastes your time trying to prove those naysayers wrong! You must learn to wash away the things that aren’t working. Then you need to learn to wash others; assisting others with their emotional cleansing increases peace to all situations.

**Psychological Injury**

Paul could have suffered from a psychological injury in that he was able to heal others but unable to heal himself. You may find yourself saying I can help others but I can’t help myself. You can’t allow trauma to cause you mental injuries. If you do this, this will cause malformation. Believing you are injured will keep you from doing what God has called you to do. This is a disfigurement to your spiritual condition. God has said you are ready and you are arguing back that you are not ready. It will never be a right time to be a Christian or to do work for the Kingdom. The enemy will always come against you when you begin to try to make progress. He will always try to stop you from gaining access to the power available through Jesus Christ. He will always come against your study time, your prayer life and your praise. You have to be like Paul and do these things in spite of your problem. Don’t look to people to validate what God has called you to do.

**Stop the emotional bleeding**

You have to stop the emotional bleeding. When don’t nurture your spirit when a problem arises you will find yourself emotionally weak but if we turn to God He will provide strength. You must check your emotional defaults; this is the automatic responses that you have when you respond emotionally. It’s when you allow this certain thing to happen and it gets a reaction out of you. You must change how you think about it. You must reprogram according to the Word of God. Some of the things God tells us is you must be slow to anger; you must forgive others and be discrete about your affairs. You must not allow your worth and value to come from social media, text, relationships and careers. Your true worth and value is found in the Word of God. You must also realize that there is no such thing as a painless Christian life. God says in this life we will have trouble but cheer up I have overcome the world. (**John 16: 33**) You must make your mind up ahead of time to reset your default codes; you must set your mind ahead of time to respond to situations according to the Word because during trials it can’t be reset. Somethings in God’s Kingdom are caught and others you earn. For example gifts can be caught and transformation must be earned. Patience is one of those things that must be earned and can only come through trials. Once we learn it we must set it as a default.

**Be ready for the blessing**

Paul is learning through his adversity how to be a better Christian. Like Paul, God is making you better through your pain. See **1 Peter 5:6-11** and **Ephesians 5: 15-19**

**The challenge you must face is this: Effective change only comes by doing something different!**