

The End of Me Bible Study Series

#5 I Am Not Strong Enough

MMBC

February 14, 2018

Review Lesson #4 Admitting I Can't Fix It

Lesson: 2 Corinthians 12:9-11

Consider the Context.

Paul tells us about his visions and revelations from the Lord in 12:2-5. What a gift? What a revelation.

The Thorn

Now, Paul describes his thorn in verses 6-7. Read verses 6-7 from the NIV, KJV, and NLT.

Do you think Paul was getting the "big head" from his special gifts?

What is the big head?

From the language Paul is using, you almost think he is not talking about himself. He said, "I know a man..."

Let's look at this "thorn" issue in more detail. Read vv. 7-10. Explain the logic of what Paul called having a "thorn in the flesh" keeping him from being conceited based on his giftedness.

Read Matthew 7:9-11 Does reading this Scripture make you think God's response was unfair to one of his children, Paul?

Who gave Paul the thorn? How many times did Paul ask to have the thorn taken away?

- How many times would you have asked?
- How many times have you asked?

What was God's response to Paul for asking God to move it?

Notice God's two points:

- (1) My grace is sufficient for you.
- (2) My power is made perfect in weakness.

Explain his grace is sufficient (adequate).

Now, how is God's power made perfect in our weakness (instances from among those present)?

Let's revisit some Scriptures:

- Do you remember God's conversation with **Gideon** about the number of Gideon's troops when they were planning the attack on the Midianites? (In Judges 7:2 God tells Gideon he has too many soldiers. Apparently, in God's eyes, Gideon's army was not weak enough.

Who did God want to see the winner declared to be?

In light of the statement: "I am not strong enough", can we ever use this as a means of justifying our inability to do something God wants us to do. We can't, but God can! He is strong when we are weak.

- Do you recall the conversation Moses had with God? Moses asked God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh (Exodus 3:11)?"

What was God's response? Read verse 12.
Do you really think God wanted Moses to handle Pharaoh alone?

What do you hear in verse 12 that assures Moses of the victory?

You are right God spoke as though it was already done!

What do you think God wanted Paul, Gideon, and Moses to see?

By seeing they were not strong enough and by them seeing God's power manifested they could come to the end of themselves and learn to trust God. Are you trusting Him? Have you moved out of the way?

You see if you could do it without Him, it would not be a God-thing! You could take the credit for it. God wants His strength to work through you.

The truth is, God created you with weaknesses. And, since he's God, he couldn't have made a mistake. Is it possible He created you with weaknesses in order to keep you on your knees before him? With you dependent upon Him, you're able to do all things through him who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13-14).

Listen to what God said to Gideon in Judges 6:14. How does that sound today? "Go in the strength you have!" My response is really? Lord, I am not strong enough!

God's response is clear. You are not strong enough, but I am. Trust Me! Rest in Me! Have confidence in Me!

Read Isaiah 40:29.

What a reassuring message! It's good to know God will strengthen and sustain us?

Are you weary? Are you spiritually depleted? Trust God to strengthen you.

One of my favorites of recent is William Murphy's "**YOU ARE MY STRENGTH!**" I just don't listen to it when I am weary. I listen to it also on the days I think I am strong to remind me how weak I am.