

SERMON MESSAGE FOR NOVEMBER 17/18, 2018

Pastor Dennis Keating

WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE SING THE BLUES

Finding God's Strength in Our Weaknesses

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (p. 991)

THE MAIN LESSON → God's strength _____ in weak people.

TIME IN THE CROCKPOT ...

1. Reveals our _____. (12:1-6; 2 Cor. 10:10)

THE POINT → True character isn't seen when we're getting _____, but
when we're getting _____.

2. Prevents our _____. (12:7)

THE INSIGHT → No person is too _____ to experience God's power; but
some are too _____ to experience it.

3. Teaches us _____. (12:8-9)

THE POINT → Difficulties give us the opportunity to experience
_____ (Heb. 4:16)

4. Empowers our _____. (12:10)

FROM THE NOVEMBER 17/18, 2018 SERMON
QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL PRAYER REFLECTION

Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 and review your outline notes before thinking and praying through the following questions. (There is no video blog for this weekend.)

1. What are some of the thorns that God has allowed into your life?

2. If you are in God's crockpot right now, what has the adversity revealed? Share that with God in prayer.

3. One insight from the message was, "No person is too weak to experience God's power; but some are too proud to experience it." Are there any areas of your life where your pride is keeping you from experiencing God's power? Talk with God about this. What would He have you do?

4. Think about some of your recent difficulties. How have they given you the opportunity to experience God's faithfulness?

5. Re-read verse 10. Paul finally reached a point where he stopped asking for the thorn to be removed, and where he no longer merely tolerated his struggles with grudging resignation because he knew God would be with him through all of it. What is a difficult area of life right now where you can ask God to strengthen you in your weakness? Share that with God in prayer.



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(For Scripture references and fill-in the blanks)

THE MAIN LESSON: God's strength **shows up best** in weak people.

TIME IN THE CROCKPOT ...

1. Reveals our **spiritual condition**. (12:1-6; 2 Cor. 10:10)

"... personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible." 2 Corinthians 10:10

THE POINT: True character isn't seen when we're getting **blessed**, but when we're getting **bruised**.

2. Prevents our **sinful pride**. (12:7)

THE INSIGHT: No person is too **weak** to experience God's power; but some are too **proud** to experience it.

"Pride is the only disease known to man that makes everyone sick except the one who has it." Unknown

3. Teaches us **gracious dependence**. (12:8-9)

THE POINT: Difficulties give us the opportunity to experience **God's faithfulness**. (Heb. 4:16)

"Therefore, let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

4. Empowers our **joyful contentment**. (12:10)