

Weekly Study

Your Weakness is Your Strength | Ryan Wekenman | June 5, 2022

START

If your group just started this week, go around the circle and share a bit about yourselves:

- Name
- How long you've lived in Austin
- What's on your summer bucket list?

If your group has been meeting but you have new people who have joined your group, have them introduce themselves!

If continuing to meet with your group as normal, go around and check in with your group on one or two of the following questions:

- What is the most impactful or challenging thing you learned during Sunday's sermon?
- What did that thing teach you about God? Yourself?
- What from this message can you apply to your life this week?

SHARE

This weekend Ryan continued our Grit series with a timely message on how our weakness can become strength whenever God is brought into the equation. When we come face to face with our insecurities and weaknesses, Paul shows us how we can “double down” on those things and lean on the promise that Jesus gives: “My power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9). Paul had every reason to disqualify himself because of his past, but instead he hunkered down, forgot what was behind him and strained forward toward the future that God had for him. It is by admitting our weaknesses that God begins to move more freely and powerfully in and through us.

G R O W

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-8.

We live in a world that encourages us to hide and ignore our insecurities, but by doing so we miss out on one of the greatest sources of power that God has for us. The more we ignore our insecurities, the more we become afraid of them and the bigger they become in our minds — but when you come face to face with your greatest insecurities, you will end up realizing that they are not actually as scary as you once believed. Ryan showed us that this pattern is woven throughout the entire Bible and demonstrates to us that when humans come to the end of themselves and admit they do not know what to do, that's when the power of God starts to work in and through us most clearly.

We learn in these verses that he experienced what he calls a “thorn in the flesh”, and he pleads with God three times to take it away. We don't exactly know what it was, but we do know that it was a weakness for Paul. It is easy to become discouraged and confused when it does not seem like God is answering your prayers for relief from pain and confusion; however, we see from Paul that his thorn in the flesh led to increased opportunity to grow in dependence on God's power and presence to sustain him through all of the circumstances he faced in his life.

- What is the thorn in your flesh that is causing confusion right now?
- What is one step you can take this week to open your hands and release control in order to better connect with and trust God with what is causing you confusion?

M O V E

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.

When we come to the end of ourselves and admit that we do not know how to move forward, we begin to see His power be made perfect in our weakness. There is power in our confession and honesty with God. He can work with what's really going on inside our hearts and minds, and there is comfort found in knowing that we do not have a God who is unable to empathize with our weakness (Hebrews 4:15). Whether your greatest insecurity lies in loneliness, rejection, anxiety or something else, Jesus can empathize with weakness. He was fully God yet took human form, and by doing so, felt every human emotion. He took on weakness to the point of dying on a cross, and in so doing demonstrated that you do not have to run away from weakness, but run through it. By running through weakness you will discover His strength flowing through you, and the pain of your past will be used to help other people heal as well.

- How difficult is it for you to boast gladly in your weakness?

- Who is a safe person you can confess your weakness and insecurity to so that you can begin to practically live this verse out throughout your week? How can you help other people walk in freedom and healing by boasting in that weakness?
- Who do you need to share that weakness with this week in order to encourage them and show them that they aren't alone?

P R A Y

Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into separate groups to share more freely.