

More Boasting...

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (NASB)

¹⁵ He said to Him, "O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house." ¹⁶ But the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man." Judges 6:15-16

²⁷ ...but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong... 1 Corinthians 1:27

¹² But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "*It is* not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew 9:12-13

A. I would, but I can't. (12:1-5)

¹² For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding. 2 Corinthians 10:12

1. God's power
2. God's glory
3. God's grace

B. I could, but I won't. (12:6-9a)

Paul is self-aware yet sincere. (Not insincere)

^{4b} If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:4b-11

1. Self-aware: His human accomplishments
2. Sincere: Their eternal value

The humility now exhibited in Paul came from a road that was:

1. Painful (12:7)

¹⁵ Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me. Galatians 4:15

¹¹ See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand.
Galatians 6:11

¹⁹ For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. Romans 7:19

2. Purposeful (12:8-9a)
3. Productive (12:6)

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

C. I am, so I will (12:9-10)

In my weakness:

1. God's power is **perfected**. (12:9a)

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-19

2. Christ's Power is **activated**. (12:9b)

"Living the Christian life is impossible." Ron Story

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:11

⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

3. My strength is **undergirded**. (12:10)

When I am **weak**, because of the **power** of Christ working in me, I am **able** to bear up under the trials of life **for the sake of Christ**.

08.28.16 a.m. Nigel Unrau