

# Perfect in Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 | Mark 6:1-13

The Contrast of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

The choice for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

The case for \_\_\_\_\_

The grace of \_\_\_\_\_

Read. Reflect. Respond. Remember.

Paul's boasting of weakness goes back a few chapters, and it gives some good context. Paul will "boast" about all of his plusses – he's an Israelite, a descendent of Abraham, a servant of Christ. He's worked harder, been in prison more, been beaten more, been exposed to death more. He labored and toiled and went without sleep. You want credibility, Paul has it. He has the right to be "strong" in the eyes of all. But he doesn't. Instead, he boasts about the things that have caused him to be undone. He speaks about that which has been difficult. He's vulnerable. He's exposed.

Read 2 Corinthians 10-12.

Reflect:

Many people have remarkable stories about faith and life in very difficult situations, but they will not share how they have been undone. People are hesitant to speak about things that are difficult – why?

How does Paul set himself apart not to raise himself up but to show how God has moved in him?

Respond:

God is gracious.

Remember: 2 Corinthians 12:9

"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."