

A True Apostle of Christ Defends His Ministry (Part 2)
2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Context

11:1-15	A True Apostle of Christ's Concern (Part 1)
11:16-33	A True Apostle of Christ Defends His Ministry (Part 1)
	-- Paul "boasts" of his "weakness" in not mistreating the Corinthians. (vs. 16-21)
	-- Paul "boasts" of his ministry as a true apostle and missionary of Christ. (vs. 22-33)
12:1-10	A True Apostle of Christ Defends His Ministry (Part 2)
12:11-21	A True Apostle of Christ's Concern (Part 2)
13:1-10	A True Apostle of Christ's Warning
13:11-14	Final Exhortations, Greetings, and Benediction

BIG IDEA: True Christians are marked by a contentment in suffering for Christ.

- I. Paul "boasts" of the special revelation(s) that he had received from Heaven. (12:1-4)

Although Paul could have boasted in these "revelations," he transitioned to focusing on his weaknesses. (12:5-6)

- II. Paul shares how God's grace and power are magnified in his Heaven-sent weakness. (12:7-9a)
- III. Paul "boasts" in his weaknesses, and accepts them as ordained by God, so that God's power can mightily rest on him. (12:9b-10)

Observations and Questions

- It is not wrong for Christians to ask God to heal or remove physical infirmities and weaknesses.
- However, it is wrong for Christians to refuse to accept God's answer!
- It is grace when God empowers Christians to trust and obey Him through ongoing physical weaknesses, trials, and persecution.
- **Why can Christians be content in “weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities?”**
- **What Scriptural truths must Christians know and believe before difficult trials come?**
- **What Scriptural truths must Christians know and believe during difficult trials?**
- **What Scriptural truths must Christians know and believe after difficult trials?**