

## Living with Trouble

### Job's counselors

#### ➤ Job's troubles

proved that Job was displeasing to God

### Paul's attackers in Corinth

#### ➤ Paul's troubles

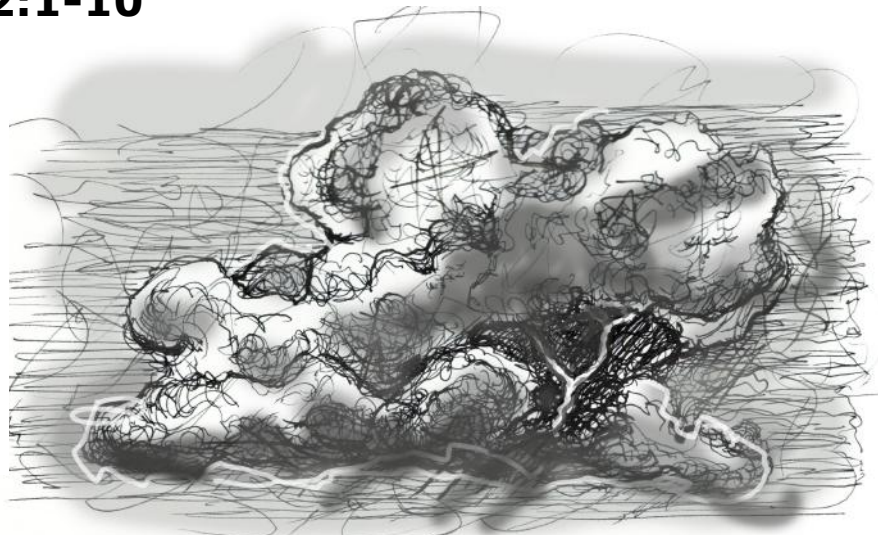
proved that Paul was displeasing to God

➤ Their more 'successful' and pleasant lives proved that they were more pleasing to God

1

## Life in the Storm: The gift of weaknesses 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

[ref.ly/1Co12;niv](https://ref.ly/1Co12;niv)



2

## 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. <sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. <sup>3</sup> And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— <sup>4</sup> was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.

Paul outdoes their boasting ...then he nullifies it

3

<sup>5</sup> I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup> Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, <sup>7</sup> or because of these surpassingly great revelations.

Paul wanted to avoid people thinking too highly of him

4

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.<sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

God wanted to avoid Paul thinking too highly of himself  
Satan was unwittingly contributing to God's good work

5

<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

When I am weak in myself and have many troubles...  
→ then I can know and show the strength of God  
When I am strong in myself and have few troubles...  
→ it just looks like I am strong

6

## **The Big Idea**

**Sometimes God gives us weaknesses  
as an expression of His love for us**

**God's glory is clearest  
when the glory of God appears  
in our weaknesses and troubles**

7

**How could I demonstrate  
the power of...**

A new form of counseling  
A new way to treating cancer  
A new teaching strategy

8

## **His power 'made perfect' in weakness**

God's glorious power is more evident when it is displayed ...

- in weak vessels
- in challenging times

9

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10

## **Annie Johnson Flint (1866-1932)**

11

### **He Giveth More Grace**

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow  
greater,

He sendeth more strength when the labors  
increase,

To added affliction He addeth His mercy,  
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

His love has no limit, His grace has no measure,  
His power no boundary known unto men,  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,  
He giveth and giveth and giveth again.

12

## **What God Hath Promised**

God has not promised skies always blue,  
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;  
God has not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God has promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing kindness, undying love.

13

## **Fruit of the Spirit**

Love  
Joy  
Peace  
Forbearance (patience)  
Kindness  
Goodness  
Faithfulness  
Gentleness  
Self-control

14

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## **What are we to do?**

**In our troubles and weakness,  
trust in the all sufficient grace of God**

- His power displayed in weakness and trouble
- In self: humility
- In others: temptation to trust in them

**Ask for relief from trouble**

**If He doesn't remove it, accept it with active  
faith, hope, and obedience**

16

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17

"In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself!" Mark 15:31

**Because He didn't save Himself (weakness)**

➤ **He was able to save others**

**If He had saved Himself**

➤ **others could not have been saved**

**In His weakness, the power of salvation came**

18

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.  
2 Corinthians 12:9