



Direct from Dave - June 28, 2018

The Apostle Paul must have been a very strong and courageous man. He endured a lot. In 2 Corinthians 11:25 Common English Bible (CEB) he says this: *"I was beaten with rods three times. I was stoned once. I was shipwrecked three times. I spent a day and a night on the open sea."* What an amazing man! He sure endured a lot as a Christ follower.

Perhaps when we think of Paul, we think of him as being more 'perfect' than others. However on Sunday we will count him as an **"ImPerfect Example."** We will find that he had a 'thorn in the flesh'---an imperfection---which he prayed for God to take away. However, God did not choose to remove that imperfection from Paul. Paul had to learn to live with imperfection.

Sarah has had to learn to live with imperfection---she married me!!!! As we mentioned in last week's message, we are all imperfect. When we think of imperfections, we tend to think that imperfections make us weak. Certainly that is what the world says. However, what if, in our imperfections, we allow God to shine through.

Our sermon text on Sunday is 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. In that passage Paul identifies that through the Lord, *"power is made perfect in weakness."* Imperfect example, imperfect people, but perfect power through Christ in weakness. Whatt??? Paul ends that scripture section by saying *"when I'm weak, then I'm strong."* How in our weakness and in our imperfections can we be strong?

Yes, this strong Paul who was beaten, stoned, and shipwrecked; also realized that in his imperfections he could be strong. I wonder why God didn't take away Paul's imperfections. I wonder why Paul had to go through some of those hardships. It is through the imperfect example of Paul that we can learn so much about how we can deal with weaknesses, insults, disasters, harassments, and stressful situations.

I am reminded of the children's song *"Jesus Loves Me."* Part of the lyrics are: *"Little ones to him belong; They are weak, but he is strong."*

May we have HIS strength as we have the pain and stresses of life. May we realize that even with our weaknesses and imperfections, we have His grace, power, and strength.

See you Sunday where the weak are given strength,

Pastor Dave

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