

THE GIFT NOBODY WANTS

(2Cor 12:7-10)

“So I wouldn’t get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan’s angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! At first, I didn’t think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, and then he told me,

‘My grace is enough; it’s all you need.

My strength comes into its own in your weakness.’

Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ’s strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, oppositions, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so, the weaker I get, the stronger I become.” (The Message)

WEAKNESS IS A GIFT NOBODY WANTS...& EVERYBODY NEEDS

Def. *weakness* =

1. IT REVEALS OUR DEPENDENCY & GOD’S SUFFICIENCY

At first, I didn’t think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, and then he told me, “My grace is enough; it’s all you need.” (8-9)

2. IT REMINDS US HOW GOD GETS THINGS DONE

My strength comes into its own in your weakness (9)

3. IT PREPARES US FOR GREATER USEFULNESS

The weaker I get, the stronger I become. (10)

4. IT IS A GIFT TO BE SHARED

Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, oppositions, bad breaks. (9)

Sharing strengths builds walls. Sharing weaknesses builds bridges.
- Kenneth Strachan, founder of Latin American Mission

If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we would find in each man’s life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility.
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 19th century American poet

What do we do with these gifts?

- Embrace them
- Learn from them
- Share them