Message Outline



God's Will: Deliverance or Dependence
2 Cor 12:7-10

"If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness." (2 Cor 11:30, ESV)

"[1] I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. [2] I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. [3] And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— [4] and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. [5] On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— [6] though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. [7] So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. [8] Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. [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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. [10] For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2Cor 12:1-10, ESV)

1. We should <u>realize</u> that God's goodness to us is the soil in our lives where either humility or pride can grow. And humility is the only mindset that magnifies Christ.

"You are good and do good; teach me your statutes." (Ps 119:68, ESV)

"[6] So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. [7] For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, [8] a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, [9] a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. [10] And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. [11] "Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, [12] lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, [13] and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, [14] then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, [15] who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, [16] who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. [17] Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.'" (Deut 8:6-17, ESV)

2. God always has the perfect <u>remedy</u> to guard us from our potential uselessness and fruitfulness in our pride.

"It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes." (Ps 119:71, ESV)

"[32] But, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; [33] for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men." (Lam 3:32-33, ESV)

"Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?" (Lam 3:38, ESV)

3. The most common, natural, and understandable response to a painful trial is to <u>request</u> deliverance from the Lord. We don't always know what will magnify Christ more, so there is nothing wrong per se to request deliverance.

4. Most often, God's <u>reply</u> to our petitions may be that ongoing dependence on Christ, not immediate deliverance, is His good, acceptable, and perfect will. Often, ongoing suffering is God's way to magnify Christ in our lives.

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." (2 Cori 4:7, ESV)

"Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked? In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider; God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him." (Ecc 7:13-14, ESV)

5. Our <u>response</u> by God's continuing grace is to be one of embracing God's will with joy. We resolve to magnify Christ by relying on His strength and our weakness.

"as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing." (2 Cor 6:10a, ESV)

"Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD." (Ps 32:10, ESV)

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb 4:16-18, ESV)

"[20] Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Eph 3:20-21, ESV)

Dr. Stuart W. Scott

Welcome FIRST TIME guests!

Thank you for visiting. Please send an email to gift@tokyobaptist.org for a free gift.

First time guest Connection:

COMMITMENT CARD

If you would like to believe in Jesus or have questions about baptism, we'd love to hear from you!
Email: cc@tokyobaptist.org or visit https://t-b-c.us/cc to let us know!

TBC Life SIGN-UP

weekly email news

http://t-b-c.us/tbclife

UPCOMING TBC CLASSES & TRAINING

class 101 Membership

November 12th (Sun)
1:00 - 5:00pm

class 201 Maturity

November 26th (Sun)
1:00 - 5:00pm

Please visit https://t-b-c.us/classes to REGISTER

Small Groups Information

SG Lesson
t-b-c.us/sg4523p

SG Sign-up
t-b-c.us/sgsu

For Online Giving please visit:
https://tokyobaptist.org/give

Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®),
© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.