



## Session 10: Weakness as Strength

---

### **READ:**

Acts 17:16–19:22; 1 Corinthians 1–4; 2 Corinthians 4; 12:1-10

### **CONNECT: Strengths and Weaknesses**

What is something you were good at, and something you were definitely not good at, growing up?

### **WATCH: Weakness as Strength**

As you watch the video, fill in the following:

#### **A. Background**

When did Paul write the two canonical letters to the Corinthians?

According to Rev. Dan Hendley, in what ways did the Corinthians' pride and arrogance manifest itself?

#### **B. Theological Outlooks: Faith**

How do we see the Corinthians' "over-realized eschatology"?

Why did some Corinthians imagine Christ had given them more power than he had given to other believers?

What did Paul emphasize to correct their error?

What is the only way that believers receive blessings of the age to come?

"To sin against a believer is to sin against \_\_\_\_\_."

### **DISCUSS**

- What is something you learned from the video?
- Why do you think God allowed two of the letters that Paul wrote to the Corinthians to disappear? What does this mean about the two letters we still have?

- Early in Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, he begged them to agree with each other, not to be divided but to “be united in the same mind and the same judgment”(1:10). Throughout this series we’ve seen that the unity among believers is central to Paul’s theology. How can the following passages address roots of disunity in your church today?
  - 1 Cor. 3:5-8
  - 1 Cor. 12:7, 11, 12
- In what ways does being aware of Christ as our Lord and Christ as our Savior strike a blow at our sinful pride?

### **STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART: True Power**

- In 1 Corinthians 1:17-18 Paul wrote about the power of the cross. What does it mean that “to us who are being saved [the cross] is the power of God”?
- Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5. Have you known anyone personally who showed the power of God in their lives despite their weakness? If so, describe what that looked like.
- Throughout 1 and 2 Corinthians Paul shared a wide variety of weaknesses. He wasn’t a polished orator. He anguished over the people he loved and his relationship with them. He talked openly about being afflicted, perplexed, struck down (2 Cor. 4:8-9), and even tormented by Satan (2 Cor. 12:7). What is an area of your life where you feel weak and would like to experience God’s power made perfect in that weakness?

### **APPLY:**

- In 2 Corinthians 3:4-5 Paul wrote, “Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.”
  - How does this verse comfort you?
  - In what areas of your life does this verse invite you to rethink your confidence in your own abilities?
- Where has this study encouraged you in your faith?
- Where has it challenged you? What do you want to do as a result?