

same chapter = Evaluation: Depression = often frustrated us, especially when we pray for removal & doesn't answer = Heavenly experience can be dangerous - "lest I be exhausted & exalted." Paul's first missionary journey - young in the work = nothing so quickly disqualified us as spiritual pride. I take the obvious & reverse it.

Why? - To keep Paul usable - Everything I do is for our good & His glory - I can only be glorified when we're weak. Chest Thompson instead of Hart Thompson. An evangelizing experience.

I - Examine the Principle - "my strength made perfect in weakness." your weakness is the condition for manifesting my strength = human weakness serves to magnify G's power. the weaker one servant, the more conspicuous G's power. (1) 1 Cor 1:26-28. I don't use us in spite of our weakness but because of it. (2) Paul in Phil 3. 1 Cor 2:1-4 (3) King Uzziah II Chron 26:15, 16 (4) Moses Ex 3 - no message, no authority, no ability, no eloquence, no previous experience, no previous success, no faith = "You're just the man I'm looking for!" (5) Gideon - 32,000 reduced to 300 (6) Mordecai - reporter in Britain = bad English, high pitched voice, nasal overweight, rough. "I can see nothing in Mordecai to account for his memorable work." Mordecai = "That's the very secret, there's nothing that can explain it but power of G, it is G's work."

II - Examine the Thorn - "given to me a thorn in the flesh." Thorn = a sharpened wooden stake = verb = to crucify = absolutely. Repleen significant that Paul didn't identify thorn = not a spiritual or moral defect. 1 - A Frustrating Response - Paul prayed 3 times. I can do more if change circumstances, etc. - what is your thorn? = I saw him smother, better

2 - a Fantastic Revelation - a messenger, Satan & a soft, grace at some time. I see Satan & would kill him. The circumstances create the problem - give me problems.

III - Examine the Possibilities - "I will glory... not me power & may rest on me" = the handicap becomes an advantage. 1. Rejoicing in Difficulties Possible "glory" a shout of triumph.

2. Power & available - rest: to dwell in a tent = X's power spread over us like a tent during our life. 3. Every usefulness open to all.

IV - Enter into the Provision - "my grace is sufficient for thee" and the greatest understatement. 15 - the Wizard of Oz = Right now by faith. 3 ways you can do - 1. Resist it 2. Resist it 3. Resist it