

2 Cor 12 - Intro - we learn about the true experience - a X in paradox - but of Paul's misery comes great Truth

Laundry Paul

Support team - remains said

I Establish the Principle 1 - My strength - your weakness - Human weakness is the condition for manifesting my strength - Human weakness serves to magnify the G's power. The weaker the servant, the more conspicuous G's grace.

2 - 1 Cor. 1:26-28 - Paul doesn't say G does the best He can w/ poor material at His disposal, He deliberately chose them, passing by the wise, etc. G doesn't use us in spite of our weakness but because of it. G isn't confined to the greatly gifted & exceptionally clever - He can use men only as they abandon reliance on their

3 - Paul - Phil - "I counted less" - 1 Cor 2:1-4

3 - Israel - smallest among nations -

G King Uzziah II Chron 26:15,16 3 Moses 4 3 - no message, authority, eloquence, ability, previous experience, favors, rejection. The more excuse Moses offered, the more reasons G had for wanting him.

4 Bible 32,000 to 300 5 Moody close - reporter in Britain / (bad English, high pitched voice, nasal, overweight, rough) - "I can see nothing, whatever in Moody to account for his marvelous work."

Moody - "That's the very secret. There is nothing in it that can explain it but the power of G. It's G's work, not mine."

This is G's strategy. X Himself apostles

- the point of Paul's weakness became the place of G's power.

G takes the obvious & unobvious X's birth, life, death

Its
II Examining the Process = "given to me a thorn in flesh?"

1. a thorn = a sharpened wooden stake -
verb to crucify = painful - impaled -

Paul sees himself impaled helplessly &
in humiliation -

2. Given to me = Paul not punishing his body -
it is a gift of God -

3. For the flesh = not in the flesh = not
confined to physical suffering - for the flesh =
to keep it weak, humble

We come to God through a sense of need - The feeling of
inadequacy turns into prayer, we come to depend
on God when self-sufficiency has been broken by
some situation or experience that is too much for
us.

- It may be that God refuses to remove our weaknesses,
because he needs it -

- 1 - Guard against spiritual pride
- 2 - Lead us spiritual dependence.

Be careful about praying, "God, use
me." Better mean it, He may give you
a thorn in flesh to make you useable