

***Brokenness: Experiencing God's Grace When
Your Health Declines
2 Corinthians 12:1-10
March 22, 2015***

Introduction

Seeing Beyond Our Physical Problems

False notions of strength:

1. I am healthy. Isaiah 42:5
2. I am beautiful. Proverbs 31:30
3. I am young. Leviticus 19:32

True notions of strength:

1. I am going to receive a new body.
2. I am beautiful in my soul.
3. I am most strong when I am in Christ.

Changing our perspective on health. 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Paul's response to physical pain:

1. He boasts in it. (9)
2. He delights in it. (10)

God's purposes when our health declines.

1. I am experiencing God's power. (9)
2. I am experiencing God's sufficient grace. (9)
3. I am experiencing God's strength. (10)

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. ³And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—⁴was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. ⁵I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. ⁶Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, ⁷or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But 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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.