

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Parenting in Weakness

### Speaker:

Dave Harvey

### Date:

November 29, 2009

### Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 11:30-12:10

## Kids Corner

- 1) What does it mean to be weak?
- 2) How did Jesus become weak?
- 3) How does God want us to be weak? (Talk about how God works through our weakness to teach us faith and to change us).

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**Theme:** For the Christian power flows through weakness.

**Introduction:** Scripture is full of paradox (apparent contradictions). In God's economy he is free to use and glory in things that are foolish, weak and absurd by the world's standards. In Paul's defense of his apostleship to the Corinthians, he appeals to his own weakness as a gospel reminder and encouragement. Super-apostles were berating him and his defense was unusual: "I'm even weaker than you know."

### 1) My story reveals my weakness

- Paul does not appeal to gifting and experience; but to his weakness and suffering.
- He was beaten, abused, neglected, imprisoned and near death. He was anxious for the fate of his churches (11:28). He was, in a word, human, and subject to the same failings and weaknesses we all feel. There were things beyond his control, loved ones beyond his reach and circumstances beyond his wisdom.
- His tact is the inverse of his opponents: they glory in strength, money and prestige; he glories in Christ and in suffering with him.

### 2) My thorn reminds me of my weakness

- Paul experienced a most unusual spiritual vision; and he reveals it not to glory in it or to assert his qualifications, but to reiterate his weakness and his desire to be known for his character and actions.
- God gives him a thorn to humble him—it uniquely drives him to humility and to cry out to God. "God uses Satan to protect Paul from sin."
- We all have thorns given by God to drive us to him and to restrain us from sin.

### 3) Application for parenting (3 points)

- 1) Parenting is used by God to reveal our weakness and God's strength  
He graciously dispels our trust in methodology to teach us to rely upon him.  
He gives us difficult children to teach us to boast in the right things.
- 2) Parenting is used by God to take our boasting and convert it.  
We boast not in accomplishments and education, but in weakness & suffering.  
We boast that God might be glorified in us.
- 3) Parenting is used by God to point families to a Savior crucified in weakness but now living by the power of God.  
Jesus was crucified in weakness that he might bless us in ours.
- Are you discouraged about your children? Do you feel like you have nothing left to offer?

### Questions:

- 1) What are your weaknesses (in parenting, at work, relationally)?
- 2) What do you boast in?
- 3) What "thorns" has God given you and why has he given them to you? How is he driving you to desperation and faith?
- 4) How does the gospel meet and empower you in your weaknesses?