

A Purpose and A Promise

What Next? The New Normal, Part 2

Pastor Ken Ritz * May 13, 2018 * New Life Vineyard Church

Review

What do you do when there's nothing you can do:
with a relationship, kids, finances, health, or another
major situation in life

The presence of adversity does not equal the absence of God.

The Apostle Paul
2 Corinthians 12

Verse 7

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given ...

- not cursed with, not punished with,
- the word translated "given" implies a good gift.

... a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me.

- thorn: a constant irritating problem

Paul saw this as a gift with a _____.

- Yet it was painful, humiliating, and debilitating

Verse 8

"Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

- Three seasons of his life when the problem became unbearable

Verse 9

But he said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

- God's power reaches its full potential, when you are the weakest.

- God answered, no...
- so Paul's problem was painful, humiliating, and debilitating, and permanent

How did Paul respond?

Verse 9

"Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness so that Christ's power may rest on me."

Therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities (KJV)

...so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Embracing _____ is a prerequisite to experiencing Christ's ability.

- I am weak so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Verse 10

That 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.

Verse 7

"in order to"

The adversity was a gift with a purpose and a promise.