

# “Joy in Weakness”

## Sermon Series “Finding Joy” (Week 3)

Sermon

*2 Corinthians 12:7–10*

July 8, 2018

Rev. Joshua Reifsteck

- 1) Paul **delights** in weakness. We ought to **delight** in weakness.

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.

*2 Corinthians 12:10*

- 2) Your weaknesses are not **an accident**.

<sup>7b</sup> I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup> But 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.

*2 Corinthians 12:7b–9*

- 3) God often uses weakness to **teach us and others**.

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

*2 Corinthians 4:7–11*

- 4) When I am weak, then I am strong, not **when I am weak, God is making me strong**.

<sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

*Philippians 4: 12–13*