

Can A Christian Grow When Struggling? (Part 2)

Scripture(s): 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Paul shares with us 9 areas in which we can grow even while we are struggling. In fact, it is the struggle that is essential to our growth.

So, why do Christians have difficulty growing through struggles? First, such growth is a miraculous act of God, and we have stopped looking for miracles. Second, growing through struggling requires making Jesus our strength and joy, and we hate the weakness that demands.

I. The first way that Paul lives out finding his strength and joy in Christ and in Christ alone is by struggling with God over it. It is when living God's way can result in our real failure that His way becomes real to us.

✓ Hear God's invitation to risk something you value in your walk with Him.

II. The second way that Paul lives out finding his strength and joy in Christ and in Christ alone is by embracing the flesh denying truth of God. Following the Spirit always requires a denial of some part of the flesh.

Luke 9:23-24 ²³ And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. -

Galatians 5:16-17 ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

✓ Are you ready to make your life a war against the flesh in you?

III. The third way that Paul lives out finding his strength and joy in Christ and in Christ alone is by clearly understanding what that truth may _____. God may not call us to every form of Christian _____, but accepting that God will stretch us as He desires will lead us to lean on _____ rather than self.

Luke 14:28-30 ²⁸ For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

✓ Don't just nod your head at the truth of God. Plan what _____ will _____ for you.

Remember this - We truly shine for Jesus when we have to succeed _____ way.

Our challenge: Find the victory that God has promised us by embracing being completely _____ upon Jesus.

October 25, 2020

"Be Strong in the Lord" 476

"More Love to Thee, O Christ" 473

"Knowing You"

* Pastoral Prayer & Children's Sermon *

"Your Glory Is Forever"