

Unwritten

Your Story Is Just Beginning

Small Group Questions: Part 4: Receiving Power Into Your Story

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Read

2 Corinthians 12:7–10; Psalm 77:11; and Hebrews 12:5–8

Reflect

Paul received vision and revelation from God, but to prevent him from boasting about it, he was given a thorn in the flesh. However many times he prayed for it to be removed, it was not. Yet in Paul's weakness, he could count on God's power and strength. Describe at least three ways God worked through Paul.

Darrin Patrick highlights three ways we can receive power into our stories:

1. Retell our encounters with God.
 - a. Whose testimony or story has impacted your faith the most, and why?
 - b. Discuss how the entire Bible is a retelling of encounters with God. Describe a time when you used a biblical story to help you make a big decision in your life?
 - c. How has talking about God in your past, given you hope for the future?
 - i. What good things might you have forgotten until you retold your story?
2. Respond to our discipline from God.
 - a. Pride is our biggest weakness. What do you often try to do without God's help?
 - b. When have you *not* prayed over something important because you didn't want...or were afraid of God's opinion? How did things turn out?
 - c. What thorns have you been given, and what purpose do you think they have served if any?
 - i. Without those thorns, do you think you would be the same person? What have you learned from them?
 - d. How would you live differently if you saw your thorn as training rather than punishment?
3. Rest in our weaknesses for God.
 - a. Why is weakness a catalyst for God's power and peace in our lives?
 - b. What do you avoid because it makes you feel weak?
 - c. How has God shown his power in your life in a totally unexpected way?
 - d. Do you think we ask for a lot less of God's power than he's willing to give us? Explain.
 - i. How have you allowed some of your difficult experiences to temper your expectations of God?

Respond

Discuss how we as believers can encourage one another in these truths. Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?