

formed

*Words That Move Us
From Believer to Disciple*

THE POWER OF WEAKNESS

*Formed
Week 6
Dave D'Angelo*

KEY POINTS

- The thing inside us that resists appearing weak is a major hindrance to spiritual growth and formation as disciples.
- Paul chose to boast in his weaknesses rather than his impressive resume and accomplishments.
- Weaknesses serve formative purposes: they keep us from becoming conceited and create space for Christ's power to rest upon us.
- Spiritual formation involves moving from a cultural understanding of identity to a gospel-driven identity.
- Our relationship with God began in a moment of weakness (confessing we are sinners in need of a Savior), and we must maintain that posture.
- Blessing is found not just in knowing these truths but in doing them—actually practicing vulnerability.
- Three practical ways to boast in weakness: admit when we don't know, confess when we're afraid, and ask for help.
- Fear is not meant to be a place of shame but a place of exchange where God fills us with His power.
- Community and burden-bearing only work when we're honest about our burdens.
- God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours; wisdom begins with acknowledging we don't have all the answers.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

2 Corinthians 12:5-10

John 13:17

Matthew 5

Psalm 34

Job 28:28

Isaiah 55

Galatians 6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul chose to boast in his weaknesses rather than his impressive resume. What would it look like in your life to shift from highlighting your strengths to being honest about your struggles?
2. In 2 Corinthians 12, God tells Paul that His power is made perfect in weakness. Why do you think divine power operates most effectively in our weakest moments rather than our strongest?
3. How does the cultural pressure to appear strong and in control conflict with the gospel identity that finds strength in admitting weakness and dependence on God?
4. Paul's thorn in the flesh remained despite his prayers for its removal. How do you reconcile unanswered prayers for relief with the truth that God's grace is sufficient?
5. What practical steps can you take to shift your identity from being based on your performance to being rooted in God's love?

formed