



Holy Trinity
Combe Down



St Andrew's
Community Church

Homegroup Material Sunday 26th Feb
Sermon Series Running Deep:
Power in Weakness: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Pray and read the passage together.

1. How does the background to this letter (with the 'super-apostles'...) help us to understand why Paul is 'boasting' so much in chapters 10-12?
2. What does Paul choose to boast in (you might like to scan 2 Cor11:21-30 to help you)?
3. According to v.7 (ch.12) how has Paul come to the point of boasting in his weakness rather than his strengths?
4. What is the difference between a 'thorn in the flesh' and normal human limitations?
5. Have you experienced something which might be considered a thorn in the flesh (consider Paul's description in v.7-8 – persistent, evil, tormenting)? Does Paul's perspective (as a gift from God) help you to re-frame this experience?
6. Tim spoke of the temptation to value strength. Some (perhaps like Paul) are addicted to strength or being impressive. What is the danger of this way of being for our spiritual and emotional lives? Try to share specific examples.
7. How can this attitude seep into our church life? Try to share specific examples.
8. How does v.9a encourage us to be vulnerable and value weakness over strength?
9. What might it look like to practice vulnerability?
10. How do we (thinking particularly as a church) tread the line between boasting in weakness and using our gifts to their fullest potential?

Prayer:

The closing challenge on Sunday was this: you need to walk the way of Jesus and practice vulnerability. You need to be aware of your weaknesses and sin, if God's given you a limp you need to embrace it rather than hide it. We need to be willing to be weak that God can be strong. Would you ask God even now to help you do that in whatever way he sees fit. That's a dangerous prayer but it could be the most explosive one you've ever prayed.

The final invitation (especially for those all too aware of their weakness) was this: "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

You might like to pray on your own or with one another into either of both of these invitations!