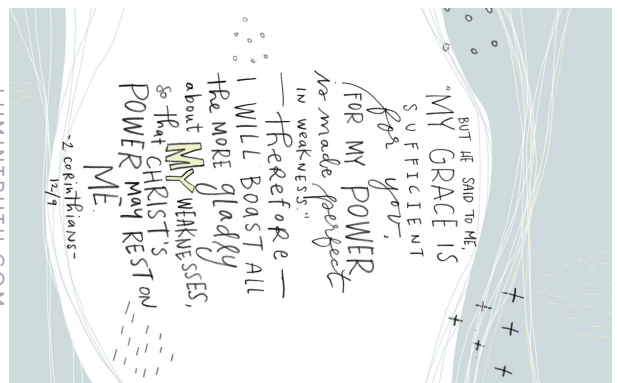
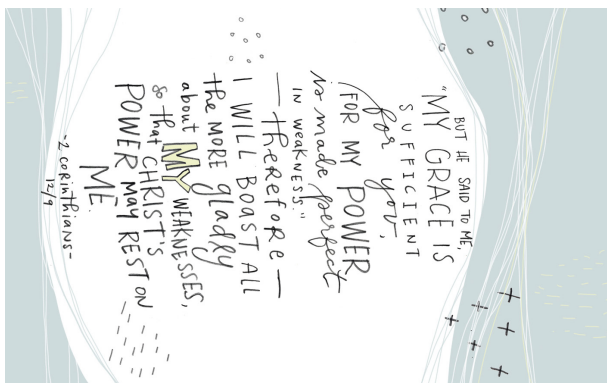
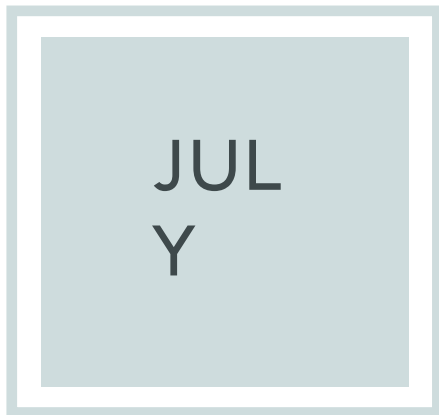


BUT HE SAID TO ME,
"MY GRACE IS
SUFFICIENT
for you,
FOR MY POWER
is made perfect
IN WEAKNESS."

— therefore —
I WILL BOAST ALL
the MORE gladly
about MY WEAKNESSES,
so that CHRIST'S
POWER MAY REST ON
ME.

-2 CORINTHIANS-
12/9





2 Corinthians 12:9

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness...."

This is Jesus' response to Paul after he asked the Lord three times for the 'thorn in his side' to be taken away. We are not exactly sure what Paul's thorn was metaphorically but it could have been a spiritual, emotional, or physical affliction. Whichever it may be, it was something that caused Paul much pain or annoyance and wanted the Lord to take it away. But Jesus' answer was simply no but there is a reason. Instead of removing the pain or problem, God gave Paul strength directly from Him through His overwhelming grace. We cannot earn His grace, it's an undeserved gift from God. The grace of God is to have His strength to endure suffering. Paul's reaction to the Lord's answer continues in verse 9: "Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." The very power of Christ. Think about that. The power that rose Him from the grave. The power to do miraculous signs and wonders. That power is made perfect in your weakness because of His grace. Paul learned through experience that when he felt weak in his flesh and suffering through painful trials, it was all worth it just to have God's grace and because of this he would boast in the hardships.

Weakness isn't something we like to boast about. We are prideful, sinful creatures who fight hard to not look weak. Jesus is asking us to think differently than this world. He knows we are all weak so why hide it and pretend we aren't? Weakness is embracing our identity as these sinful, broken beings so that all the power may be seen as belonging to God, not of ourselves. When we humble ourselves and admit to God that we are weak, we are handing over our trust to Him and that is when we are the strongest. We have to let go of the things we can't control and trust Him.

In our frailty we find our real strength and power in Him. We don't have to be strong or have it all together because He gives us grace and is our strength.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

☒ ☐ ☐ YOU&GOD

Where have you felt weak this month? Where have you depended on your own strength? Allow God's grace to overwhelm you.

Spend some time with the Lord releasing the burdens of this world and flesh over to the One who provides grace and strength. Write them down and hand them to the Lord.

☒ ☒ ☐ HUSBANDS&WIVES

Your strength does not come from your spouse but from the Lord, however, you can be a support in the weak moments by pointing to the One who promises His power will be revealed in our weaknesses.

Pray together asking the Lord for His strength to be magnified when you entrust Him with your weaknesses.

☒ ☒ ☒ PARENTS&KIDS

Is there a very difficult or painful problem that you're going through? Have you asked God to help and take it away? Maybe God is telling you He isn't going to take it away but He is giving you something so much more amazing...He is giving you His power by His grace to endure it!

Pray with your parents and commit to trust God and to go to Him for help when you are suffering through hard stuff.

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Psalms 119:130 The unfolding of your words give light – it gives understanding to the simple. God's word providing light in our lives. His words iLLUMINating truth in our hearts.

HIS WORDS | YOUR HEART .



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