Goliath Must Fall: Addiction Must Fall
2 Corinthians 12:1-10
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2 Corinthians 12:1-10: I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. [2] I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know-- God knows. [3] And I know that this man-- whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- [4] was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. [5] I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. [6] Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, [7] or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. [8] Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. [9] 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. [10] That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ with the strength of addiction

_____: It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time:…a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage;…divided homes and divided lives…uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions…. I could go on. Galatians 5:19-21a (MSG)

2. _____ down this giant

_____: If this were someone else, I would gladly celebrate their exceptional experience in the Lord. Yet, I do not want to boast about my experiences as a source of credibility. I can only celebrate my suffering in weakness; this is the only credible witness to God's power! 2 Corinthians 12:5 (JOT)

_____ to God's plan: I will say this: because these experiences I had were so tremendous, God was afraid I might be puffed up by them; so I was given a physical condition which has been a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to hurt and bother me and prick my pride. 2 Corinthians 12:7 (TLB)

_____of God's power: God said to me: "My grace will always be enough because my power will be completely evident in your weakness!" Now with a sweetness of spirit and confidence of heart, I celebrate every handicap and obstacle so that the power of Christ will make its home in me! I am pleased in every battle because I know…. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (JOT)

3. _____ God's partnership

_____ of God's purpose: We know that through God's love there is a synergy in everything to accomplish the ultimate good for those who answer the call. God knows them and has predetermined that they will be molded into the image of Jesus! They will become faithful brothers and sisters to God's firstborn! Romans 8:28-29 (JOT)

Spiritual Action Step:

Are you being driven by your self-centeredness? Are you living with too much mental and emotional garbage? Is the giant gaining strength? Jesus says: *In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 (NIV)*) Jesus can help you conquer the giant of being driven by all the wrong things. Even in your desperate places, God's power can minister to your heart. God wants you to find the joy and hope of the Apostle Paul. It begins by asking for God's help and submitting to God's plan for your life. God's grace is more than enough to save you and set you free. This week continue this study of *Goliath Must Fall*.

Translations: NIV: New International Version; MSG: The Message; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; TLB: The Living Bible