

# Power For God's People

[***bolded italicized*** statements are for group participation such as readings or discussion questions]

## Introduction:

We serve a God of great power. He has the power to destroy the world, but also the strength to bend his knee and wash feet.

This same God gives us, his people, great power to do as he does. Power to stand up in the face of great adversity, and the strength to look beneath us and serve those around us.

## Main Points:

### The God of All Comforts:

**1. Read 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4**

- a. God cares greatly for his people and seeks to give incredible comfort to all who will accept it. This compassion however should not be contained. We receive God's comfort and therefore must spread that comfort to others in need.
  - i. Often God's method of comfort is through the people he places in our lives. ***How can you bring God's comfort to the people in your life?***

**2. Read 2 Corinthians 1: 8-11**

- a. Sometimes we find ourselves in over our heads. Sometimes amidst loss, or struggles with school, or failure to meet our own expectations, or any of the other many struggles in life we find ourselves drowning with no ability to save ourselves. In these moments we must depend on God who gives us the strength to survive and thrive. The God of all Comforts is also The God who delivers.
  - i. ***How can you look to God for strength in times of great struggle?***
  - ii. ***How do you see God helping you when you go through tough times?***

### A Triumphant Procession:

**1. Read 2 Corinthians 2: 14-15**

- a. In everything we do with Christ we are being led in triumph. Even when at first it seems you have failed, God is using you to further his Kingdom on Earth.
  - i. ***What are some examples you can think of where God used you in a way you didn't expect?***

- b. This passage describes us as *“The aroma of Christ.”* **What does that mean to you?**
    - i. **If we are the aroma of Christ, how can we use that to attract others to Christ?**
- 2. Read 2 Corinthians 3: 3-6**
- a. God uses us to do his great works. We as people are weak and broken, but where we are weak, God is strong, and where we are strong, God is even stronger and seeking to make us stronger as well. God gives us power to do his will even when we lack the ability to such things on our own.
    - i. **In what ways could you use your strengths to serve God’s kingdom?**
    - ii. **In what ways can you lean on God where you are weak in order that he may use those things to work on Earth?** (i.e. I am not great at talking to strangers, but often I have stepped out of my comfort zone to do so. These times have been highly impactful on me and often on those I have reached out to.)

## Grace is Sufficient:

- 1. Read 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10**
- a. Paul struggles greatly with this “Thorn in his flesh.” He pleads with God to free him of this struggle, but his revelation in the midst of this is that God’s grace is sufficient. God’s power is made perfect where we are weak. In the places where we cannot stand alone, God upholds us and raises us above anything we could achieve.
    - i. Sometimes we try to do things on our own, but often we fall short. **What are some areas in your life that you need to trust in God and his grace more?**
  - b. Paul says he “Delights in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, [and] in difficulties.” **Why is this? Are there ways we can learn to “delight” in our struggles?**

## Conclusion:

God gives great power to his people so that we can further serve his Kingdom. When we find ourselves in over our heads, unable to continue, and too weak to do what is ahead of us God intervenes and empowers us with his Holy Spirit.

The great Dumbledore once said “Help will always be given...to those who ask for it.” He, of course, was talking about help in a fictitious world full of wizards, but these words are true none the less. Help will always be given from our power and gracious God to those who ask for it.

**End in prayer. Ask God to give you the strength to follow his will and serve his kingdom.**