

God Never Meant Your Marriage to Be Perfect

By Joshua Pease - March 1, 2018 @ ThrivingMarriages.com

Don't we all wish we could say the following? "We have such a good marriage. We hardly fight at all, if ever. We're just so compatible." And, in fact, if God said to me, "Gary I'm going to give you the easiest marriage and the easiest life, if you want it," I don't think I'd have the character to turn it down. While such a relationship might, at times feel like a pleasant marriage, it might also miss out on an entirely different dimension: the power of Christ.

In 2 Cor. 12:1-10, Paul speaks a fundamental Christian truth: *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* Three times, he pleaded with God to remove his *"thorn in the flesh."* Three times God said, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

Finally, Paul got to the point where he said, *"Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 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."*

What if, instead of telling everyone how "good" we have it, we honestly testified to God's grace? *"We're not compatible at all, but God has used those differences to build in us a humility we wouldn't have otherwise."* or *"We've never been comfortable, financially, but it's kept us on our knees."*

Is there a "thorn" in **your** marriage relationship that you have pleaded with God to take away? Something you wish He would heal, but He hasn't? In such circumstances, do we seek resolution, or do we seek Christ's power? Do we seek the pathway to an easier life, or to a supernatural life?

It is in our weaknesses—as individuals, and as couples—that Christ's power comes to rest on us; often, it is only when we are at our end that we make way for God to begin. If God resolved every issue with our first uttered prayer, in reality, we'd be weaker saints. We'd be weaker couples. We wouldn't display the power of Christ.

I don't honestly know that I can go where Paul goes: "delighting" in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, difficulties. In my marriage & family, I want them gone, I want them gone now. Isn't this our attitude? We pray, "Lord, fix this" instead of "let the power of Christ be seen in me." We don't want power; we want superficial peace. We don't want a witness. We want hassle-free lives. We don't want the fierce force of weakness-generated-strength; we want an easy, fun, and care-free relationship.

Can you thank God for that child who keeps you on your knees? Can you recognize why God may choose to allow the possibility of another addictive lapse to keep both of you living in dependence? Can you understand that God may not remove some difficulties that you hate because He wants you to rely on the supernatural power of Christ that He loves?

I believe it will change our marriages and our walks with God if we stop expecting every problem to be fixed and instead expect every difficulty to help us learn Paul's secret of strength in weakness.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Can we look at the difficulties and trials of marriage in this new light?