

Week 2

The Upside Down Kingdom

The King that Serves

‘The Upside Down Kingdom’ is a term used to describe the difference between the way the world sees success and God’s view of success. While it’s so easy to chase a life and actions that serve ourselves in pursuit of a dream or goals, the bible points to a totally different definition of what it means to be great.

Read Mark 9:35

How could you serve others more selflessly?

Why does God value servanthood over status?

MARK 9:35		PHILIPPIANS 2:3-8	
³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.		³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.	

Peace That Doesn't Make Sense

When Jesus promised His disciples the Holy Spirit, He wasn't just talking about power or knowledge He was talking about presence. God's **presence**. With them. In them. Always.

And right in the middle of that promise, He gives a gift the world desperately wants but can never truly offer: **peace**. Not the kind of peace that comes from a quiet room or an easy life. But a deep, soul-level calm rooted in the unshakable truth that **God is with us**, even in the chaos.

The Holy Spirit doesn't just teach or remind us; He **settles us**. He whispers truth when lies get loud. He brings Jesus' words to mind when we forget. He anchors us when fear tries to take over.

Heaven touches earth through **the peace of God in the people of God**. That kind of peace stands out in a noisy, anxious world. It's not manufactured, it's received.

Read John 14:25–27

Where in my life do I need to receive the peace Jesus offers through the Holy Spirit?

What does it say about God that He gives us peace through His presence, not our circumstances?

²⁵ These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

Loving Enemies and Forgiving Others

In a world of war, backstabbing, lies, hate, and pain from all of the above. Jesus invites us, again, to join an upside-down kingdom. When it feels like retaliation is the only way out, mockery and gossip. Jesus invites us to do something unthinkable. The bible says that because of sin, we were enemies of God, disconnected from him and his way. But even while we were enemies. He sent His Son to die for us. That would be like doing the nicest thing you've ever done for anyone to the person who deserves it the least, whom you despise the most. Let's discover what exists on the other side of an unthinkable response.

Read Luke 6:27-35

Is there someone you need to forgive today?

Why does God call us to love and forgive even when it's difficult?

Love Your Enemies

²⁷ “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹ And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³² “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

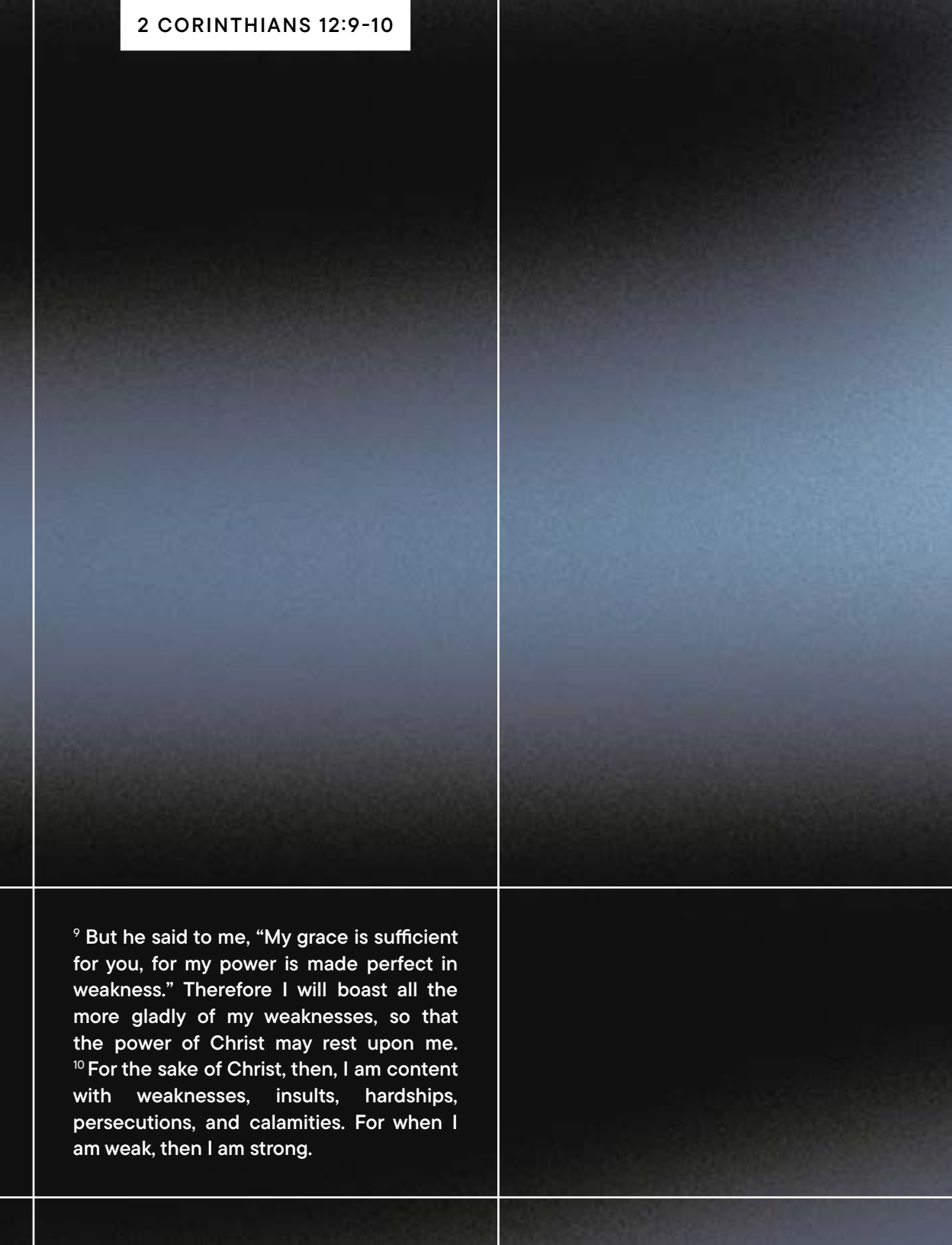
Finding Strength in Weakness

In the world, strength looks like power, control, success, and having it all together. But in the Kingdom of God, strength often shows up in the form of dependence, humility, and even weakness. God’s power isn’t reserved for the strong; it’s made perfect in weakness. God is just getting started when we’re at the end of ourselves. In the upside-down Kingdom, surrender leads to strength.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Where in your life do you feel weak, and how might God want to show up there?

Why does God reveal His power through our weakness?



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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Losing to Gain

Everything in life tells us to protect ourselves, build our brand, get ahead, and make life about me. But Jesus says the opposite: if you want to gain your life, you must lose it. That sounds crazy – until you realize He’s talking about eternal life, deep joy, and true purpose. In the upside-down Kingdom, dying to self is the only way to really live.

Read Matthew 16:24-26

What’s one area of your life where Jesus might call you to surrender or “lose” something?

Why does following Jesus often require sacrifice?

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”