



TITLE | The Comparison Game
SERIES | Beyond Our Strength
TEXT | 2 Corinthians 10:1-18
BY | Bob Kerrey
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SERMON NOTES

2 Corinthians 10:1 I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ-- I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!-- 2 I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh. 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. 7 Look at what is before your eyes. If anyone is confident that he is Christ's, let him remind himself that just as he is Christ's, so also are we. 8 For even if I boast a little too much of our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be ashamed. 9 I do not want to appear to be frightening you with my letters. 10 For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account." 11 Let such a person understand that what we say by letter when absent, we do when present. 12 Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding. 13 But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. . . . *ESV*

BIG IDEA:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

2 Corinthians 10:13 But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

In what ways might you have compared yourself to others as a gauge of your own acceptability? Is that healthy? Why or why not?

Tuesday:

Read 2 Corinthians 10:1-12. In verse 12, the apostle Paul says that he does not dare compare himself to others because those who do this are "without understanding." What don't they understand?

Wednesday:

Read 2 Corinthians 10:13-18. Instead of comparing himself to others, what does Paul do instead? How does the concept of confinement or limits or boundaries of influence come into play?

Thursday:

Reread 2 Corinthians 10:13. What areas of influence has God given you? How has God gifted you?

Friday:

Specifically, how can you stop comparing yourself to others and confine your focus to the individual gifts and areas of ministry God has given you? What is the danger of comparison for you? What is the benefit of confinement?

Daily Prayer:

**Lord, you know how prone I am to compare myself to others as the basis for my acceptability. Help me to confine my focus to the individual gifts and area of ministry you have given me personally.
Amen.**