



TITLE | True Strength
SERIES | Beyond Our Strength
TEXT | 2 Corinthians 11:16-33
BY | Bob Kerrey
DATE | August 21, 2022

SERMON NOTES

2 Corinthians 11:16 I repeat, let no one think me foolish. But even if you do, accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. **17** What I am saying with this boastful confidence, I say not as the Lord would but as a fool. **18** Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast. **19** For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! **20** For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. **21** To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. **22** Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. **23** Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. **24** Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; **26** on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; **27** in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. **28** And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. **29** Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? **30** If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. **31** The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. **32** At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, **33** but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands. *ESV*

BIG IDEA:

2 Corinthians 11:30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

According to our cultural conceptions, what are the characteristics of a mentally and spiritually strong person? What are the characteristics of a weak person? To what extent are these cultural conceptions reflected in political advertisements today?

Tuesday:

Read 2 Corinthians 11:16-21. How does the apostle Paul feel about the prospect of boasting in defending himself against his opponents in Corinth? How is this tension reflected in Proverbs 26:4-5?

Wednesday:

Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-23. How does Paul stack up to his opponents on Jewishness and being a servant of Christ?

Thursday:

Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-29. Here Paul explains how he is superior to his opponents as a servant of Christ. How does Paul's boasting compare to how one might be expected to boast in his culture and ours?

Friday:

Read 2 Corinthians 11:30-33. Why does Paul boast about his weakness? What purpose does it serve? How can we follow Paul's example?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, help me to boast not in my strength, but in my weakness, that your strength and goodness may be revealed. For anything good I happen to have or do or be is because of you. And for that I give thanks. Amen.