



APPNOTES

Date: August 24-August 28,2020

Series: Dark Horses

2 Corinthians 12:5-10 When we think of the greatest of the greats in Scripture, Paul is one who comes to mind. He went on three missionary journeys, founded many churches, and wrote two-thirds of what we call the New Testament. Compared to Paul we think, “What have I accomplished?” But Paul would tell you that he did not boast in the journeys, the churches, or the letters. He boasted only in his weaknesses, because it is in Paul’s weaknesses that God was able to work in him and through him. We all have weaknesses – that thing that holds us back, trips us up, and makes us self-conscious. Those are the things God wants to use. Be open to where God is leading you, even if it seems impossible for you to accomplish. In your own strength you can’t, but through you, God can!

Psalms 18:1-2 Towers and fortresses of stone fill the pages of the Old Testament. The ancient world was a dangerous and uncertain place. Your average villager lived a hand-to-mouth existence. He paid tribute or taxes to his king or tribal chief, and in return he expected protection. When marauders attacked, all of the villagers could run for safety to the walled city or fortress, and the king's men would protect them. David sees God as both the fortress in which to hide and the king who defends him. Like the unarmed villagers, we often feel weak and unable to win the battle. But when we run to God, who is our strong fortress, we will find protection, hope, and love. More than a king, God is our Father. If you’re feeling under attack today, run to Him!

1 Chronicles 16:11-15 Does your family have stories they like to tell over and over? We have one in our family. My dad was a professional truck driver at one time, and he would say things like, “I know my way around. I’m a professional.” All said in jest, of course, proven by the fact that he got lost on the way to our usual vacation spot. We still laugh about it. In this passage, King David is calling on the people of Israel to remember a different kind of family story. Remember when we were slaves and God saved us? Remember when God made a covenant with Abraham and another with Moses? Unlike our family story that gives us a good laugh, these were stories the people of God could use to remind themselves of the goodness of God. When they were attacked, when they were broken by sin – God was their strength then, and He will be ours now.

Isaiah 40:28-31 I've never run a marathon. I'm not the push-through-until-you-win kind of girl, more the quit-before-you-die kind. Running a marathon is hard work, and I don't have it in me. There are other things in my life, though, that are difficult, and many people might stop trying in similar situations. I push through physical pain because the alternative is spending all day in a ball. Years ago I worked my way through college because I had a goal. I continue to share the gospel with my family, even when they're skeptical and hurtful, because I love them. Such things can wear a person down, but God promises to renew our strength when we rest in Him. What are you facing – again, still – that has you feeling weary and broken? Take heart. Rest in God. He'll give you that second wind so you can win the race.

2 Timothy 1:7-12 The gospels record a parable of Jesus, about a master giving three servants different amounts of money before going on a trip; the man came back some time later to demand an accounting. The purpose of the parable was to tell us that God has entrusted to each of us talents that we're supposed to use to help others find the way back to God. In this letter to a young pastor, Paul turns the idea of "entrusting" on its head. He says we're the ones who have entrusted our lives to God. Maybe Timothy felt overwhelmed at the idea of pastoring a church, but Paul told him to not be afraid. Be bold! God has given Timothy, and us, the ability to do what He has called us to do, and if we entrust our lives to God, He will finish the work He started. What a privilege it is to be a part of that work!

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