

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture texts: **2Corinthians 12:7-10**.
- B. This morning I want to talk about God, the impossibility specialist.
- C. We have a lot of good things going for us:
 - 1. God's message of truth that changes lives (Heb. 4:12).
 - 2. Commitment to the truth that gets things done.
 - 3. Biblical organization with elders, deacons, preachers, teachers.
 - 4. A good spirit and attitude of unity.
- D. But better than all of that, better than anything we might put on our good side; the best thing we have going for us is our colossal failure!

I. WE ARE TREMENDOUS FAILURES.

- A. We are tremendous failures. Do we really want to count the ways? If someone had a total of how many times we sinned last week would we really want to see it?
- B. We are failures as human beings, in being moral, upright, selfless, or goodly. We are failures as fathers, mothers, children, Xians, etc.
- C. We come together at worship, encourage one another, study from the Bible and then go home and wonder what am I supposed to do with my life?
- D. And then we look at the job we are supposed to be doing in evangelism, teaching and benevolence and with the overwhelming odds against us in our present sinful world and say, "No way, no way can I do this."
- E. But, even with our colossal failures, God is an impossibility specialist!

II. GOD, THE IMPOSSIBILITY SPECIALIST.

- A. God specializes in making the impossible happen. He is an impossibility specialist.
- B. For example:
 - 1. Out of nothing He created the universe.
 - 2. Out of the dust of the ground created man.
 - 3. From a rib of man He created woman.
 - 4. He took a 99-year old woman and gave her a son through whom his descendants would be a numbered as the sand of the sea and stars of the sky.
 - 5. He took a bunch of impoverished slaves out of Egypt, parted the Red Sea and called them "His people."
 - 6. He took those same people; rebellious, sinful, idolatrous, adulterous rejecters of the Law, and gave unto them a pure, sinless child who would become the Savior of the world.
 - 7. He took that small boy who was born in a stable to an unmarried woman, raised in a derelict place called Nazareth, and gave Him a name above every name.
 - 8. God took a man who was unjustly accused and tried, rejected by men and was put to death on a cross and called Him the Giver of life.
 - 9. He took 11 misguided, uneducated, untrained men who did not understand the ministry of Jesus from the beginning and in an age of no mass-transportation or mass-communication and turned the world upside down by starting the greatest people movement in the history of the world.
 - 10. He took a Pharisee of Pharisees, a Xian hater, church persecutor, and made him into one of the greatest lovers of men's souls of all mankind.
 - 11. He brought down the most powerful of world empires (the Roman empire) without a single gunshot, bomb, or drop of bloodshed; He brought it down by its sheer weight of unrighteousness.
 - 12. He took a tiny, illegal collection of nobodies, who were non-violent, peace loving followers of a

crucified Jew, and made then into an everlasting kingdom that the gates of "hell" shall never overcome.

C. My God, your God, the God of the Bible--is an impossibility specialist!

III. OUR STRENGTHS ARE WEAKNESSES, OUR WEAKNESSES STRENGTHS.

A. As we turn back again to the text (2Cor. 12:8-9), we see that Paul says when we are weak we are strong and that we should boast in our weaknesses. May I say that only when we are weak we are strong.

Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. **9** And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

B. Here is the crux of the lesson... As long we focus on our strengths we can only accomplish the possible; but Paul is telling us through this passage that if we will focus on our weaknesses and God's grace we can accomplish the impossible.

C. And this is why I say the greatest things we have going for us is our colossal failure! My God is an impossibility specialist!

IV. MOTIVATION, TALENTS, AND METHODS.

A. When we begin to trust God, lean on Jesus, and recognize that God's grace works through weakness God can begin to do the impossible in our lives.

B. No more worries about motivation, my lack of talent or ability, or the right method to work for God.

C. God's grace is sufficient in all these areas:

1. In motivation (2Cor. 1:12).

For our proud confidence is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.

2. In talents and abilities, or lack thereof (2Cor. 3:5,6).

Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, **6** who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

3. In the methods to reach out and instruct (2Cor. 4:1-2, 7).

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, **2** but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves;

V. REMEMBER THAT WE ARE CALLED OF GOD.

A. All Xians have been called by God. Not a little voice from heaven telling us what to do, but all have been called by the gospel (see Ac. 2:39; 2Th. 2:14).

B. The important thing here is that we are called to do a job in which we have nothing to prove. It makes no difference of our background, talents, etc., God has called us to do the job.

C. And in our weakness, we can become strong by His grace!

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. Because I am called of God, church growth is not my burden, its the Lord's burden. And God will cause the church to grow.

B. God is the impossibility specialist. Man cannot rid himself of his sin, but God can through JC.

C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.