

Roots

Play to your weaknesses.

2 Cor. 12:9 – *But He said to me, “My Grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”*

Jesus is here talking to Paul. Paul has been struggling with something, a “thorn in his side” if you will. But because of it, he pleaded with God for Him to take it away. God’s answer was, “No.” What can we learn from this? Well, Several things actually. God will tell us no sometimes. The Christian life isn’t always comfortable. But importantly, we learn that Christ’s grace is enough. Through our weaknesses, times of trouble, pain and insult we can feel small and forgotten, but we’re not. Christ dwells in our hearts and our minds, living with us through our pain and weaknesses, and through them he is mighty. Even though we might falter and fail, Christ’s work is accomplished in us and one day we will be strong and victorious at his side.

Dear, Lord teach us to be patient and even boast in our weaknesses, trusting that even in them your power is perfect. Amen.

Going Away

The college years! What fun they were! During college it was a time to learn, a time to laugh, a time to explore and a time grow. Even if you didn’t go to college, that age is a very formative time. One in which you learn more about who you really are. You pick a job, and sometimes we choose well with that and other times . . . not so much. Many of life’s big

lessons are learned during that age. Many mistakes are made and many of life’s biggest victories are claimed.

Today, we remember fondly those days, whether they were spent in college, at work or abroad. We also have the opportunity today to send some of our young men and women off to live those days. One thing that I found very important to me was the support I received from my home church and the family that I had there. If you’ll allow me another tree metaphor, it really did give me “roots.” In them, I had a broader support system than I ever realized or imagined until much later on. I had the freedom to learn and grow, try and fail, attempt and succeed, all the while being held up by the love and sense of belonging that came from my church family, who lifted me up in prayer and supported me in other various ways.

We now get the privilege and honor of giving the young men and women of our congregation “roots.” Whether or not they are going off to college, we can be their support system. I encourage you to take a moment each week and lift up the young people of our congregation in prayer. God will hear, and He will care for them in more ways than you can even imagine. Even through their weakest moments, Christ will be there watching over them with His perfect power.

Pastor *Carl Jh*

