

# Boast of My Weakness

2 Corinthians 11:18-30

**Q: What are you  
most proud of?  
Why?**

# Threat of the Charlatans

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- ch10: The Spiritual **Battleground**
- ch11a: Lost Your **First Love**
- ch11b: Paul's Boast: **Weakness** in Ministry
- ch12a: Paul's Boast: Spiritual Weakness:
  - My **Grace** Is Sufficient
- ch12b: As **Parents** for Their Own Children

# The Spiritual Battleground (2Cor10)

- Pastor Arthur, “**Corinth and Beyond**”
- **1-6**: We **fight** not according to flesh
- **7-11**: Apostolic **authority** for building up
- **12-18**: **Measured** by God’s canon



# Lost Your First Love (2Cor11a)

- Pastor Phil, “**What Impresses You?**”
- **1-6** (You): corrupted away from **simple devotion**
- **7-11**: (We): kept ourselves **unburdensome**
- **12-15**: (They): **masquerading** as apostles

# My Grace Is Sufficient (2Cor12)

- Brother Sunday (next week)
- 1-4: **Pride** in God's revelation
  - Visions of heaven
- 5-8: **Humbled** by God's hand
  - Thorn in the flesh
- 9-10: Power perfected in **weakness**
- 11-21: As **parents** for their own children

# Boast of My Weakness (2Cor11b)

1. **Charlatans** (v18-21a)
2. **Credentials** (v21b-22)
3. **Crises** (v23-27)
4. **Concern** (v28-30)

# 2 Corinthians 11:18-21a (NIV)

Since many are **\*\*boasting\*\*** in the way the world does,

**\*\*I too\*\*** will boast.

You gladly **\*\*put up\*\*** with fools since you are so **\*\*wise\*\***!

[You: Corinthians]

In fact, you even put up with anyone

who **\*\*enslaves\*\*** you

or **\*\*exploits\*\*** you or **\*\*takes advantage\*\*** of

**YOU**



# 1a. They: Charlatans (20)

- “**Enslaves**”
  - e.g., to legalism, Gal4:9
- “**Exploits**” (eat, swallow)
  - c.f. Mk12:40
- “**Takes advantage**” (take)
  - c.f. 2Cor12:16
- “**Puts on airs**” (raise up)
  - c.f. 2Cor10:5
- “**Slaps in face**” (strike)

# 1b. You: Corinthians (19)

\* "You are so **\*\*wise\*\*!**" + pride in own judgment \* **\*\*\*Put up\*\*** with fools" + failure to restrain \* **\*\*\*Gladly\*\***": with pleasure, delight

! [Gandhara Buddha, Tokyo National Museum]

([https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/Gandhara\\_](https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/Gandhara_)

[Standing Buddha, Tokyo National Museum](<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sta>

# 1c. We: Christ's servants (18, 21a)

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\* "To my **\*\*shame\*\***" (irony!) \* "We were too  
**\*\*weak\*\***" + c.f. v23-28 \* "Boasting [as] the  
**\*\*world\*\***" + according to **\*\*flesh\*\*** \* **\*\*I too\*\***  
will boast" + but not in the same way + boasts  
of **\*\*weakness\*\***!

![Rembrandt, Apostle Paul]

([https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/Rembrandt\\_Apostle\\_Paul.jpg](https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/Rembrandt_Apostle_Paul.jpg))

# 1. Charlatans (18-21a)

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In fact, you even put up with anyone

who **\*\*enslaves\*\*** you

or **\*\*exploits\*\*** you or **\*\*takes advantage\*\*** of

**YOU**



# Providence (JMS)

For further reading: \* [Apologetics

(<http://www.apologeticsindex.org/416-jung-myun>

Denominations]

(<http://www.astudyofdenominations.com/denom>

\* [JMSCult](<http://jmscult.com>

![JMS, from their own website]

(<https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/jungmyun>

**Q: Are you **passive**  
when you hear  
**false teachers?****

# Boast of My Weakness (2Cor11b)

1. **Charlatans** (v18-21a)
2. **Credentials** (v21b-22)
3. **Crises** (v23-27)
4. **Concern** (v28-30)

# 2 Corinthians 11:21b-22 (NIV)

Whatever anyone else **dares** to boast about –  
I am speaking as a **fool** –  
**I also** dare to boast about.

Are they **Hebrews**? So am I.

Are they **Israelites**? So am I.

Are they **Abraham's descendants**? So am I.



# 2. Credentials

- Paul **matches** the charlatans' credentials:
- “**Hebrews**“: **nationality**
  - Preserve language / culture
- “**Israelites**“: **theocracy**
  - Preserve covenant with God
- “**Abraham's descendants**“: **Messianic right**
  - Preserve hope of eternal inheritance

# Philippians 3:4b-5 (NIV)

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put **confidence** in the flesh, I have **more**: **circumcised** on the eighth day, of the people of **Israel**, of the **tribe** of Benjamin, a **Hebrew** of Hebrews; in regard to the **law**, a Pharisee; ...





# Philippians 3:6-7 (NIV)

... as for **zeal**, persecuting the church;  
as for **righteousness** based on the law, faultless.

But whatever were **gains** to me  
I now consider **loss** for the sake of Christ.

# Dr. John Sung

! [John Sung]

([https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/john\\_sung](https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/john_sung)

! [Bethel Evangelistic Band]

([https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/john\\_sung](https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/john_sung)

Bethel\_Evangelistic\_Band.jpg)



**Q: Do you trust  
teachers because of  
their credentials?**

# Boast of My Weakness (2Cor11b)

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# Crises 11:23 (NIV)

Are they **servants** of Christ?

(I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am **more.**

I have **\*\*worked\*\*** much harder,

[Toil, v27]

been in **\*\*prison\*\*** more frequently,

been **\*\*flogged\*\*** more severely,

[Beatings, v24-25]

**and been exposed to \*\*death\*\* again and again.**





# Beatings 11:24-25 (NIV)

**Five** times I received from the Jews  
the forty **lashes** minus one.

**Three** times I was **beaten** with rods,  
**once** I was pelted with **stones**,

**three** times I was **shipwrecked**,  
I spent a night and a day in the open **sea**,

I have been constantly on the **move**.



# Danger of Death 11:26 (NIV)

I have been in danger from **rivers**, in danger from **bandits**, in danger from my fellow **Jews**, in danger from **Gentiles**; in danger in the **city**, in danger in the **country**, in danger at **sea**; and in danger from **false believers**.



# Toil 11:27 (NIV)

I have **labored** and **toiled**  
and have often gone without **sleep**;  
I have known **hunger** and **thirst**  
and have often gone without **food**;  
I have been **cold** and **naked**.



# I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

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! [map of Assam]

(<https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/assam.png>)

Assam region of India

! [Sadhu Sundar Singh]

([https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/sadhu\\_sun](https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/sadhu_sun))

[Sadhu Sundar Singh]([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadhu\\_Sundar\\_Singh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadhu_Sundar_Singh))

# 1 Corinthians 1:26-27 (NIV)

God chose the **foolish** things of the world  
to shame the **wise**;

God chose the **weak** things of the world  
to shame the strong.

# 1 Corinthians 1:28-29 (NIV)

God chose the **lowly** things of this world  
and the **despised** things –  
and the things that are **not** –  
to nullify the things that **are**,  
that **no one** may boast before him.



# 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (NIV)

It is because of him that you are in **Christ Jesus**, who has become for us **wisdom** from God – that is, our **righteousness, holiness** and **redemption**.

Therefore, as it is written:

“Let the one who boasts **boast in the Lord**.”



**Q: Do you draw  
others  
to Christ through  
your **success**,  
or your **frailty**?**

# Boast of My Weakness (2Cor11b)

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# 2 Corinthians 11:28-30 (NIV)

Besides everything else,  
I face daily the pressure of my **\*\*concern\*\*** for  
all the churches.

Who is **\*\*weak\*\***, and I do not feel **\*\*weak\*\***?  
Who is led into **\*\*sin\*\***, and I do not inwardly  
**\*\*burn\*\***?

If I must boast,  
I will boast of the things that show my  
**\*\*weakness\*\***.



A high-angle, slightly blurred photograph of a child from behind, wearing a red jacket and blue sneakers with red accents. The child is stepping into a puddle on a gravel path, with water splashing around their feet. The background shows green grass and a wooden plank.

Who is led into **sin**,  
and I do not inwardly **burn**?



# 1 Corinthians 2:2-3 (NIV)

For I resolved to know **nothing** while I was with  
you  
except **Jesus Christ** and him **crucified**.

I came to you in **weakness** with great **fear** and  
trembling.



# 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NIV)

My message and my preaching were not with wise and **persuasive words**, but with a demonstration of the **Spirit's power**, so that your faith might not rest on **human wisdom**, but on **God's power**.

**Q: What are you  
most proud of?**

**Why?**



# 2 Corinthians 13:4 (NIV)

For [Christ] was **crucified** in weakness,  
yet he **lives** by God's power.

Likewise, we are **weak** in him,  
yet by **God's power** we will live with him





