

PRAYER: SHARING IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

Delighting in No

Week 5 - February 12, 2017

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

- 2 Peter 1:3-4

This boasting will do no good, but I must go on. I will reluctantly tell about visions and revelations from the Lord. I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know—only God knows. Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell. That experience is worth boasting about, but I'm not going to do it. I will boast only about my weaknesses. If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message, even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

- Psalm 147:10-11

DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS:

1. In what way has your prayer life changed for the better as a result of the "Prayer: Sharing in the Life of Jesus" series?
2. When was the last time you felt like God said "no" and how did you feel about that?
3. In 2 Peter 1:3-4, we learned that God has given us promises enabling us to share in His divine nature. What part of His nature are you experiencing when God says "no"?

4. Please explain a time when you thought you had a “thorn in the flesh” - a situation, circumstance or problem, that caused you to discover Christ’s strength in the place of your own weakness? What does that reveal to you about yourself? About God?

5. What is changing in you as we continue in the prayer series?

NEXT STEPS:

1. In what other way could you look at your situations, so you see His “yes” instead of a “no”?

2. In what way are you celebrating radically - God’s delight in you and your delight in Him?

3. What declarations of scripture will you practice this week, personifying the reality of Christ in you?

4. In what way will you express the divine nature of Christ this week as you grow in your life of prayer?

Share with a friend the answers to questions in the Next Steps and establish a **SMART*** Goal so you can purposefully agree with God’s involvement in your journey.

***SMART GOALS:**

a. *Specific - Can you state specifically what you are doing?*

b. *Measurable - How can we measure this goal so we will know when you have reached it?*

c. *Attainable - Is it within your capabilities and does it depend on you?*

d. *Relevant - Do you care enough about this goal to make it a priority?*

e. *Time Specific - It has a deadline.*