

# UPSIDE DOWN

Exploring the strange things that Jesus said.



#NothingtoBoastAbout

@vincebrooke

# Nothing to Boast About

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## **2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (ESV)**

**12 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.**

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**5 On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses—6 though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. 7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.**

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**8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

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**2 Corinthians 12:1 (ESV)**

**I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.**

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**SO, WHAT EXACTLY IS HAPPENING HERE  
...WHAT IS PAUL TALKING ABOUT?**

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**2 Corinthians 12:2-6**

**2-I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. 5 On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses—6 though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me.**

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## 2 Corinthians 12:2-3

**2-I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—**

**MAYBE IT'S OK TO NOT HAVE EVERYTHING COMPLETELY FIGURED OUT ABOUT WHAT GOD IS DOING ALL THE TIME IN YOUR LIFE.**



## 2 Corinthians 12:2-4

2-I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

**SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD ARE NOT JUST FOR PAUL OR THOSE WE CONSIDER HEROES OF THE FAITH. THEY ARE FOR EVERYONE, AND IF YOU ARE DAILY GOING AFTER GOD AND WHAT HE WANTS FOR YOUR LIFE, YOU WILL ENCOUNTER THEM ALSO.**

## 2 Corinthians 12:5-6

**5 On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses—  
6 though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me.**

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW THE COOLEST PART ABOUT EXPERIENCING SUPERNATURAL GIFTING AND ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD?**

**IT'S YOUR TESTIMONY...NO ONE CAN TALK YOU OUT OF THEM OR TAKE THEM AWAY FROM YOU.**



**2 Corinthians 12:7-9a**

**7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."**

**WE PRAY SO HARD FOR RELIEF FROM TROUBLES AND OUR COMFORT, AND YET THEY ARE THE VERY THINGS THAT KEEP US AT GOD'S FEET IN TOTAL RELIANCE ON HIS HELP.**

**WHAT PAUL IS SHOWING US IS THAT IF WE ARE IN CHRIST, WORKING TOWARDS THE THINGS HE IS CALLING US TO, WE SHOULD NEVER EXPECT THAT HE WOULD ALLOW ANY OF US TO GET TOO COMFORTABLE IN OUR OWN CAPABILITIES AND/OR IN A POSITION WHERE WE DON'T HAVE TO COMPLETELY RELY ON HIM TO MAKE IT THROUGH EACH DAY.**



**Acts 9:14-16**

**15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."**

**Jeremiah 29:11**

**11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.**

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**Romans 8:26-28**

**26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose**

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**2 Corinthians 12:9b-10**

**Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

**GOD LOVES IT WHEN WE COME TO HIM IN OUR WEAKNESS WITH AN HONEST CONFESSION OF WHAT WE "ARE NOT" AND/ OR THE THINGS WE ARE STRUGGLING WITH.**

**MOST OF US, ESPECIALLY HERE IN THE WEST, ARE TAUGHT TO WORK TOWARDS AND CELEBRATE "SELF RELIANCE", BUT IN GOD'S EYES, THAT IS ACTUALLY JUST ANOTHER FORM OF PRIDE AND IS A MAJOR HINDRANCE TO GOD'S GRACE AND HELP FLOWING TOWARDS US.**



**GOD HAS NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO GO IT ALONE. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT CONNECTION.**

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**Matthew 11:28-30**

**28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

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 **REMNANTCHURCH**

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