

Boast Of My Weakness

II Corinthians 11:18-30

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(PDF 16:9, 4:3)

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

Why?

Threat Of The Charlatans

- 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
or puts on **airs** or **slaps** you in the face.
[They: Charlatans]

To my shame I admit that we were too **weak** for that!
[We: Christ's servants]

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



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

- "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!**



1. Charlatans (18-21a)

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I too will boast.

You gladly put up with fools since you are so wise!
[You: Corinthians]

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or exploits you or takes advantage of you
or puts on airs or slaps you in the face.
[They: Charlatans]

To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that!
[We: Christ's servants]

Providence (JMS)

For further reading:

- [Apologetics Index](#)
- [A Study of Denominations](#)
- [JMSCult](#)



**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



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

Boast Of My Weakness (2Cor11b)

1. *Charlatans* (v18-21a)
2. *Credentials* (v21b-22)
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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.

[Danger of Death, v26]

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**.

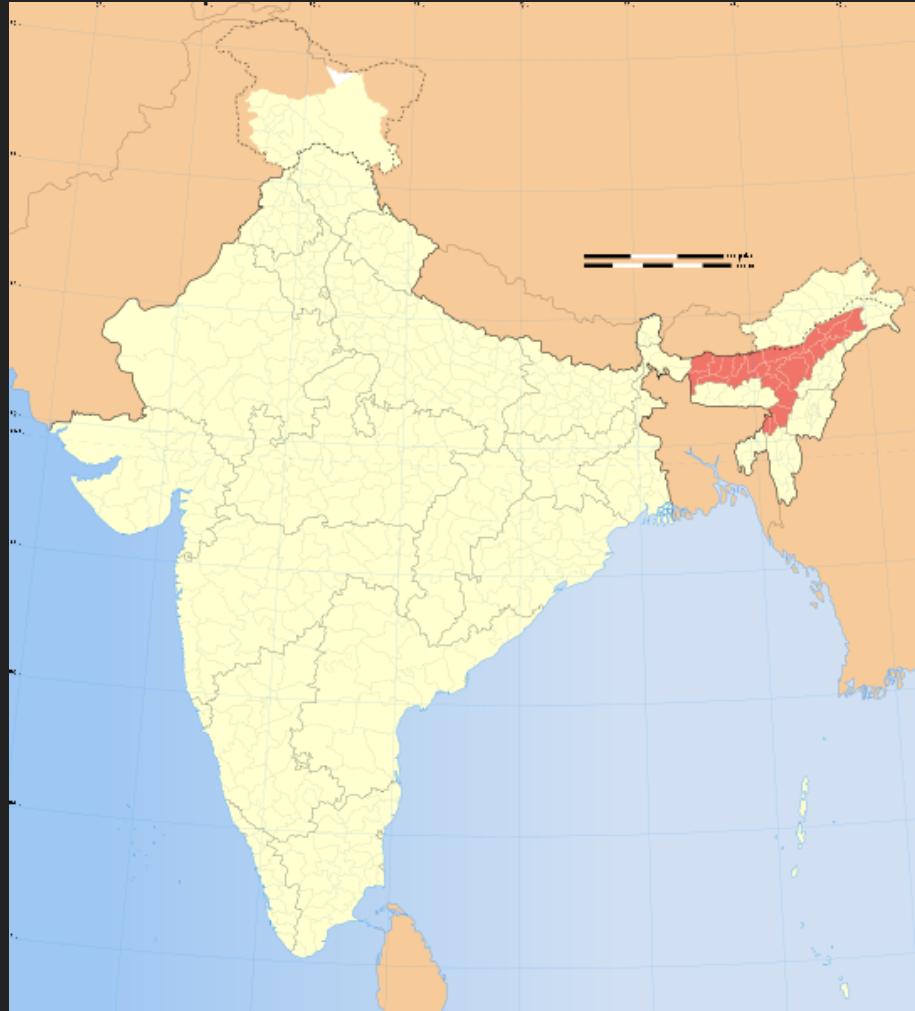
Danger Of Death 11:26 (NIV)

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



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)

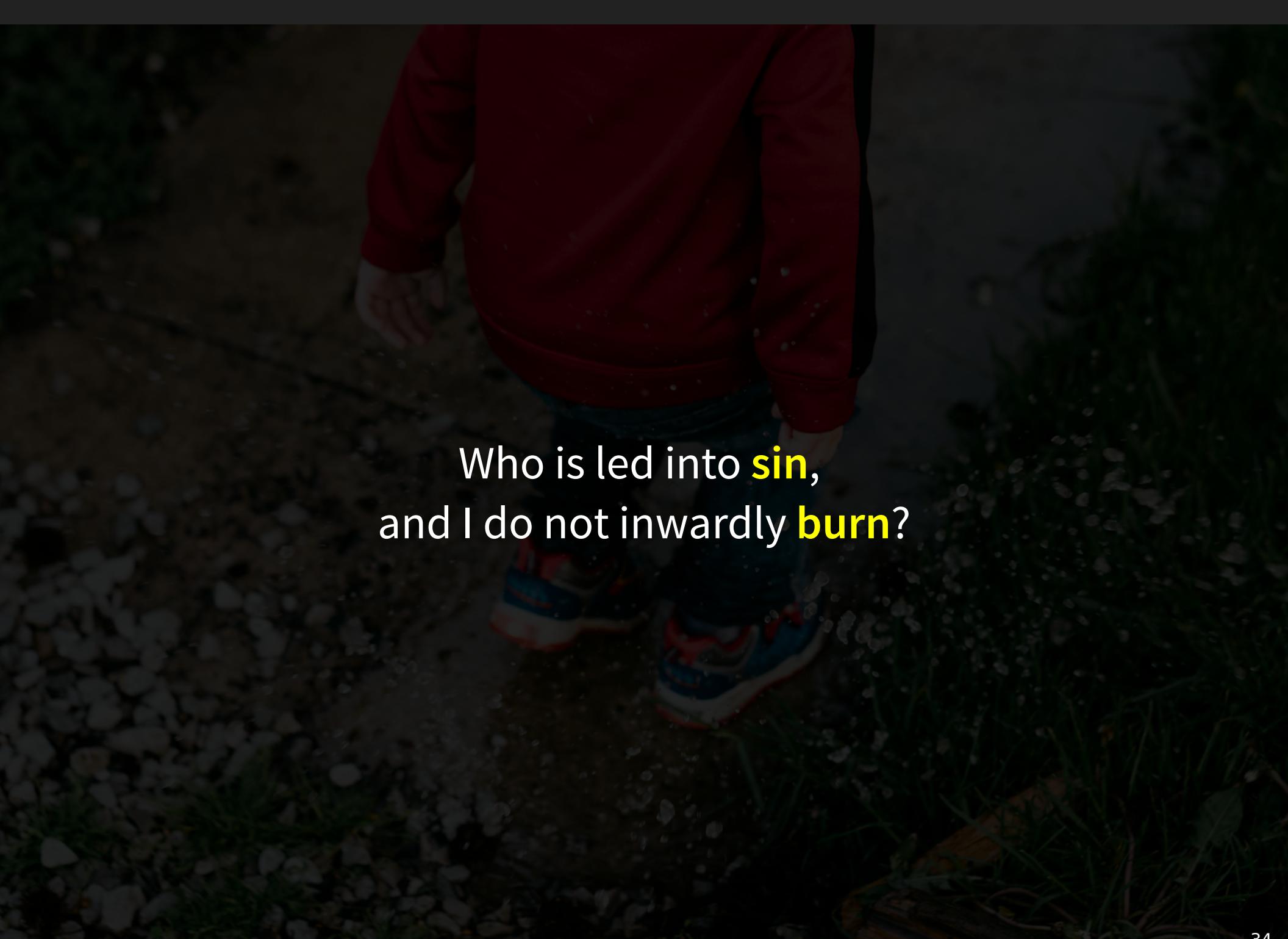
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2 Corinthians 11:28-30 (NIV)

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 photograph showing a person from behind, walking away on a gravel path. The person is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt, dark pants, and colorful sneakers. The path is surrounded by grass and small rocks.

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