

Boast of My Weakness

2 Corinthians 11:18-30

**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

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_Buddha_Tokyo_National_Museum.jpg)

[Standing Buddha, Tokyo National Museum] (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standing_Buddha,_Tokyo_National_Museum)

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**!

![Rembrandt, Apostle Paul]

(https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/Rembrandt_Apostle_Paul.jpg)

1. Charlatans (18-21a)

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

Providence (JMS)

For further reading: * [Apologetics

(<http://www.apologeticsindex.org/416-jung-myung-hun-denominations>)

Denominations]

(<http://www.astudyofdenominations.com/denominations>)

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

![JMS, from their own website]

(<https://sermons.seanho.com/img/fig/jungmyung-hun-denominations>)

**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)

![Bethel Evangelistic Band]

(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)

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

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

![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_sundar_singh.png)

[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)

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

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.



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

