



## **AVAILABLE (Part 2) - “How Do I Leverage This?”**

### **2 Corinthians 12:8-10**

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

### **Psalm 13:1-2**

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

### **Psalm 23:4**

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

### **James 1:2-4**

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

### **Romans 5:3-5**

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

### **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

### **Philippians 2:1-5**

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

## **Key Points**

- *The most impactful things we can leverage are our difficulties, hardships, and weaknesses.*
- *God's grace is sufficient for us when life is heavy because it is in that place that God's power is perfected.*
- *Holding heavy things positions us to depend on God.*
- *Dependence on God is where real power is found.*
- *We leverage heavy things by the way we respond to them.*
- *God is not afraid by your honesty; He already knows everything about you.*
- *In many respects, being honest with God is really about being honest with yourself.*
- *When we are honest with God about our hardships, our circumstances may not change, but we do.*
- *Leveraging heavy things starts with being radically honest with God.*

## **READ**

**Open your time together by reading the Scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:**

- **Read 2 Corinthians 12:8-10, Psalm 13:1-2, and Psalm 23:4. How does Paul's perspective on weakness and God's grace challenge conventional views of strength and success in today's society? How can embracing weakness lead to a deeper experience of God's strength in our lives?**
- **Read James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-5. How do these passages offer insights into the role of trials and challenges in the Christian life, and what lessons can be drawn from them to navigate difficulties with a sense of purpose and hope?**
- **Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 and Philippians 2:1-5. How do these passages collectively encourage a perspective of compassion, comfort, and selflessness in your faith journey?**

## **REFLECT**

- **Discuss the significance of leveraging difficulties, hardships, and weaknesses. How can these experiences be opportunities for growth and transformation?**
- **Reflect on the statement, "God's grace is sufficient for us when life is heavy." How has recognizing God's power in challenging times impacted your faith?**

## **RESPOND**

- **How has honesty with God brought about personal growth and resilience in your life?**
- **What does it look like to leverage one's life for God's Kingdom when difficulties, hardships, and weakness often seem to weigh us down?**

## **PRAY**

**Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests collectively or by breaking into prayer partners.**