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)
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]
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)*

José de Madrazo, Jesus in the House of Annas, 1803
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)

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.
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)
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.
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.
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.
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)
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.