

The Fool's Speech, Part 2

2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-12:10

1

The Fool's Speech, Part 2

- **The Main Point:** Paul's superiority to the imposters at Corinth is displayed primarily in his weakness, which both demonstrates and completes God's power.

Ramping up The Foolishness

- WARNING: Foolish boasting ahead!
- The Corinthians—professionals at bearing with foolishness
 - Paul's sarcastic weakness

Time to Play Hardball... In Weakness

- National Heritage
 - Hebrew?
 - Israelites?
 - Offspring of Abraham?

2

The Fool's Speech, Part 2

- Servants of Christ
 - Paul is a superior servant
 - Paul's "strong" resume of suffering and weakness (cf. 2 Cor. 6:4-5)
- Visions and Revelations
 - Boasting of "a man" raptured (Gr. harpagenta) into third heaven/Paradise
 - A revelation that can't be revealed
 - A harassing, humiliating thorn
 - A healing effort with no healing
 - "My power is made perfect in weakness"
 - Content for the sake of Christ
 - "When I am weak, I am strong"

3

The Fool's Speech, Part 2

Wielding Weakness

- Reclaiming *biblical* weakness
 - Weakness—a shameful cultural category
 - Biblical weakness is not wimpiness, whininess, incompetence, run-of-the-mill sickness or suffering brought on by foolishness and sin.
 - Weakness in context: Affliction and neediness experienced in the service and pursuit of *that to which Christ has called us*.
 - Harnessing weakness for strength—it doesn't just happen.

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