

# Johns Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

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*The Sermon by Pastor Willie White, Jr.*

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## Depending on God (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)

My Christian Brothers and Sisters,

We tend to divide problems into two categories;

1. Problems that we know require God's help, and
2. Problems we THINK we can handle on our own.

When we rely on our own strength, resources and knowledge, we assume we can handle situations without help from God. It is imperative for us to understand, our strength turns us away from God. Our strength, rather than our weakness hinders us from trusting God, and I believe God will bring us to a point of weakness, if that is what it takes to bring us to trust in Him.

Here in our text, Paul was courageous and strong willed. Apostle Paul had spent the first half of his life serving God in his own strength, BUT God gained his attention. Apostle Paul had to learn to rely on God's strength and not his own.

**My church family**--- As your pastor, I believe God is trying to get our attention as a whole. With this Coronavirus (physical sickness) and Spiritual sickness throughout our land, we must depend upon God's strength to bring us out. Apostle Paul was afflicted with a thorn in the flesh. Apostle Paul had performed miracles, raised the dead but he could not remove the thorn that was in his flesh. This thorn humbled Apostle Paul. Which leads me to point number 1:

1. **HUMILITY** (goodness, modesty, quietness). Humility is the proper attitude before God. When things are falling apart around us, we should turn to God for direction and help. The Apostle Paul said that this thorn has humbled him. As

Christians in this sin sick world, we must **HUMBLE** ourselves under the power of God.

2. **HELP** (assist, rescue, save). The Apostle Paul prayed three times asking God to **help** him. Apostle Paul realized he needed God's help. Only when God is in control of our will, can we accomplish great tasks for Him. Paul knew the first step to being God's persons is to admit that he needed God's help. When Apostle Paul thought he was strong, he neglected to rely upon God's strength. Only in his weakness he put his trust in God. That's our cry this morning asking God to help us!!
3. **HOPE** (Anticipation, confidence, faith). Jesus said to Paul "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." It is in our weaknesses that we most clearly experience God's strength. Although God did not remove Paul's physical affliction, he promised to demonstrate His power in Paul. The fact that God's power is displayed in weak people should give us courage and **hope**.

**My Christian brothers and sisters**--- It is vital for us to understand that our weaknesses are reminders of our dependence on God. When we are strong in abilities or resources we are tempted to do God's work on our own, and that can lead to pride. When we are weak, allowing God to fill us with his power, then we are stronger than we could ever be on our own.

**Let us DEPEND ON GOD! "DEPENDING ON GOD"**

I LOVE BEING YOUR PASTOR.

PASTOR WHITE  
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