



# WE'VE GOT SPIRIT | WEEK 2 YOUTH WORSHIP



## WEEK 2

### Youth Worship Guide

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

#### Summary

##### Explore

Back To School

##### The Good News

The God who died for you  
abides in you

##### To Point

Your weakness will lead  
you closer to God

#### Message

##### QUESTION

Who went back-to-school shopping with their parents? Does getting new stuff for a new school year make you feel powerful?

##### EXCITEMENT AND REALITY

Probably not, new stuff does not stay new forever. It does not take long before new stuff gets old! It gets dirty. It gets disorganized. Things start to go downhill. Those new white kicks lose their sheen when they get just a few scuffs. This year is even worse, no one really know what is going to happen with school. A quite different back to school season, isn't it?

Usually we get excited about the possibilities ahead of us and the newness of it all at the beginning of a new school year. But we also notice things go downhill when we receive a bad grade, forget to turn in an assignment or an injury has you sidelined in sports. Then things start to get tense between you and your parents at home. You start hanging with the wrong crowd again or simply giving up. And before you know it, your excitement is replaced with disappointment. Disappointment in your situation. Disappointment in your choices. Disappointment in yourself.

We all have dreams of doing well when it comes to back to school season. But the reality is that, for many of us, the back to school season exposes our weaknesses.



## WE'VE GOT SPIRIT | WEEK 2 YOUTH WORSHIP

---

And I don't know how you handle it when your weaknesses are exposed, but if you're anything like I was when I was your age, your weaknesses being exposed probably leaves you feeling ashamed, embarrassed, and maybe a little helpless. The exposure of your weaknesses makes you even weaker (because of the way that you react to it). This annual cycle of hope, excitement, and then shame at your failure is not God's best for you.

### WHAT IS THE TRUTH? (Read [Acts 9:1-19](#) and [2 Cor 12:7-10](#))

Last week we started talking about the Holy Spirit being with us all the time. Our God is a "with us" God. Not a genie in a bottle God or a Santa Claus God, or even a judge, but a God who stays with us no matter how good or bad things get. The Holy Spirit is God living inside of us, staying with us all the time, and helping us.

No one experienced this in a more profound way than Paul. Paul was kind of like the main leader of the Jesus movement after Jesus left earth. The reason that is so crazy is because, as far as we know, Paul never even met Jesus face to face when Jesus was on earth. You would think that the main leader of the Christian movement would have been one of the guys who physically walked with Jesus for three years on earth. But the guy who is most responsible for the spread of Christianity throughout the known world at that time was a guy who was guided by the invisible Holy Spirit that Jesus promised He would send.

So, for that reason alone, if Paul has anything to say about the Holy Spirit, we should listen. Because unlike the 12 disciples, Paul knew what it was like to have never talked face to face with a physical Jesus. He gets what our lives are like in that way.

But even more so than that, Paul understands what it is like to want to do well. He was a driven, successful kind of guy. He wanted to get things done! He wanted to do well! And when he combined that highly driven personality with a passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ, a lot of good things happened! But something happened to Paul that brought him down to our level. Here is what happened in 2 Corinthians 12:7.

*7 Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.*

Now, we are not totally sure what exactly happened to Paul that he calls "a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan." Some think he was afflicted with an eye disease that made it hard for him to see. Some think it was some other kind of health-related illness. And others think he really was under intense spiritual or emotional attack—closer to mental health issues than a physical illness. But, honestly, the specifics of what it was does not matter that much for our purposes today.

Like you and me, Paul was in a situation where his weaknesses were being exposed. And it led to him succeeding less than he probably could've.

*8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

And, to you and me, that seems a little mean, doesn't it? That Paul pleaded with God to take his weaknesses away and God said "nope." But I think the key to understanding where God is coming from here is in the second part of verse 9.

---



## WE'VE GOT SPIRIT | WEEK 2 YOUTH WORSHIP

---

When you read "my grace is sufficient for you", read "I've already forgiven you."

*9 Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.  
10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

This is the life we were created to live as followers of Jesus! This is the mindset we are meant to have during our failures and disappointments during hardship like this back to school season! Yes, with so many uncertainties, you may fall short of your goals sometimes! Yes, you are going to miss a homework assignment occasionally! Yes, you might not even get to play any sports and you miss your team! But, in Christ, the exposure of our weaknesses does not lead us to disappointment, shame or embarrassment or helplessness! Because the God who died for us abides in us! And when we are weak, His strength shines brighter!

### HOW CAN YOU RESPOND?

It is great that you want to reach your goals. You want to succeed in school. You want this fall semester to be awesome. And I hope it will be. I even pray that it will be. But if it is not, the exposure of your weaknesses might be God's way of telling you to lean on Him and discover for yourself just how strong He really is.

God's strength is stronger than yours will ever be. So, in Christ, you win when you are strong. And, in Christ, you win when you are weak. Here is the Point for today:

**When God who died for you abides in you,  
your weakness will lead you closer to Him who can make you strong.**

When you are dealing with feelings of shame, embarrassment, helplessness, or anything else because of your failures. You do not have to be perfect, better, stronger, faster, smarter, prettier, or funnier than anyone else. If you are a follower of Jesus, God abides in you through the Holy Spirit and God has already given you grace, which is everything you need to be exactly who He created you to be.

---