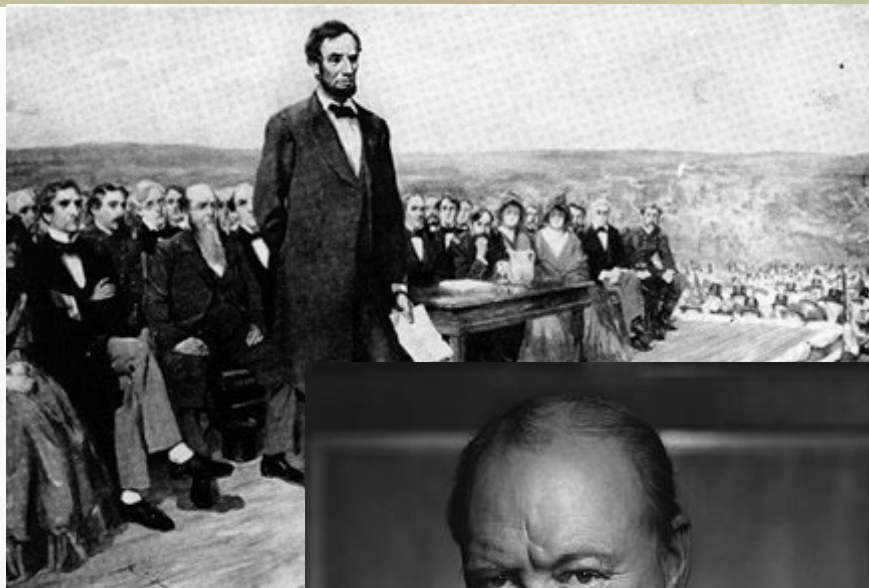
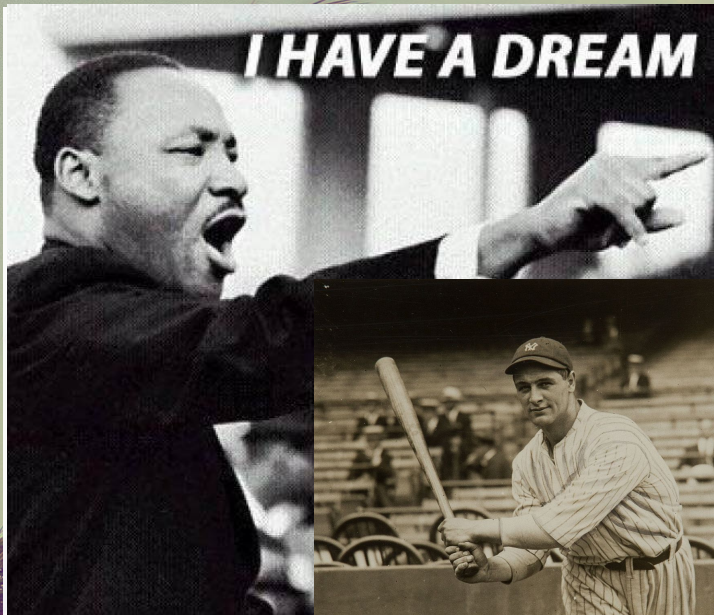


2 Cor. 12:1-10

“The Gift of Weakness”





2 Cor. 12:1-10

12 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. ³And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. ⁵Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. ⁶For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me *to be* or hears from me.⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Cor. 12:1

v. 1 – “to boast is necessary; not profitable indeed.”

Why is it necessary? Some background will help.

- Explains his apostolic ministry (chps. 1-7)
- Summons church to complete collection (8-9)
- **Defends his apostolic authority (10-13)**

But why the need to defend? RIVALS

2 Cor. 12:2-5a

Who is Paul talking about? Himself.

Why is Paul talking in the third person? To avoid self-boasting.

2 Cor. 12:5b-6

Paul can boast in ecstatic experiences	Paul boasts in weaknesses
<i>Result:</i> Silences the rivals.	<i>Result:</i> Shows where true boasting really is.

2 Cor. 12:7-10

⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Cor. 12:1-10

Major Point:

Boast in the Lord's sufficient grace!

2 Further Important Lessons:

1. God's grace is sufficient:

- (a) For our sins (b) In our weaknesses

2. Our weaknesses are a gift:

- (a) Not initially wanted
(b) For our benefit
(c) To be embraced

2 Cor. 12:1-10

Conclusion:

**Boast in the Lord's sufficient grace (power)
in all areas of life!**