

GLORY IN THE

POWER + GOSPEL

IN WEAKNESS

2 CORINTHIANS



- Paul continues to draw our attention to what it means to live into 2 Corinthians 5:17 and 6:1
 - Don't receive God's grace in vain
 - Relationships with believers and the lost
 - Generous, joyful giving; managing our stuff
 - What we think & believe about us and others and God

2 Corinthians 10:1-6

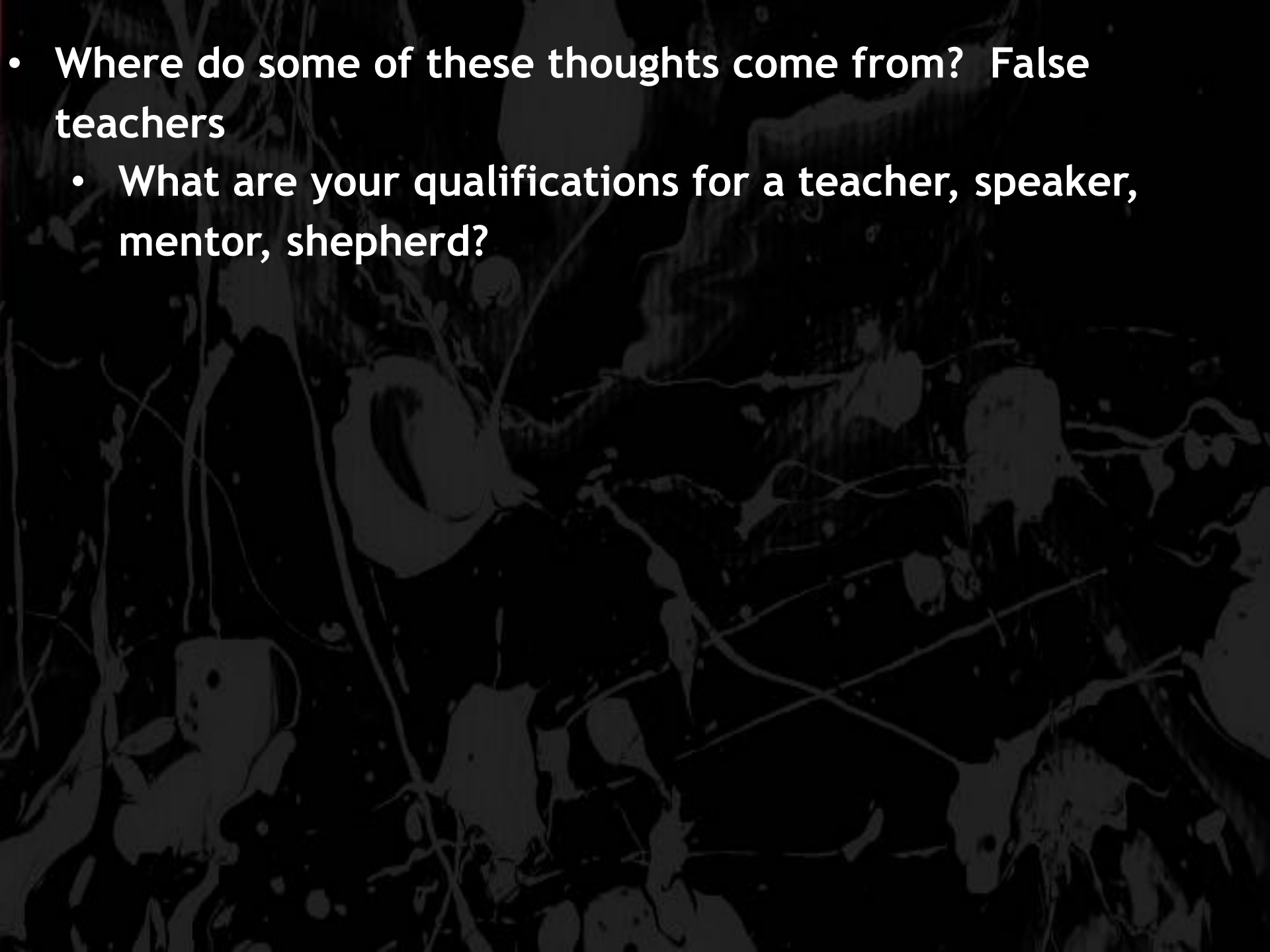
“1 Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent! 2 I ask that when I am present I need not be bold with the confidence with which I propose to be courageous against some, who regard us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, 6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.”

- **What could keep us from living into the all-changing power of the Gospel?**
 - **Thinking that contradicts 1) the content of the Gospel 2) the ongoing power of the Gospel**
 - **Thinking that denies the power of God and the life-changing power of the Gospel**
 - **Thinking that doesn't conform to Scripture**
- **We can be crippled by thoughts of despair that destroy our ability to obey God**
- **anti-Gospel ideas to destroy:**
 - **God isn't there or isn't able - practical atheism**
 - **This is as good as it gets - enjoy it!**
 - **I can change this myself - self reliance**

- **What are our weapons?**
 - **Truth, righteousness, Scripture, community, prayer, praise**
- **Are you having these thoughts? How can you battle them?**
 - **Let Scripture examine your thoughts**
 - **Ask the Spirit to apply the power of Scripture to your mind**
 - **Capture those thoughts and defeat them when they happen**

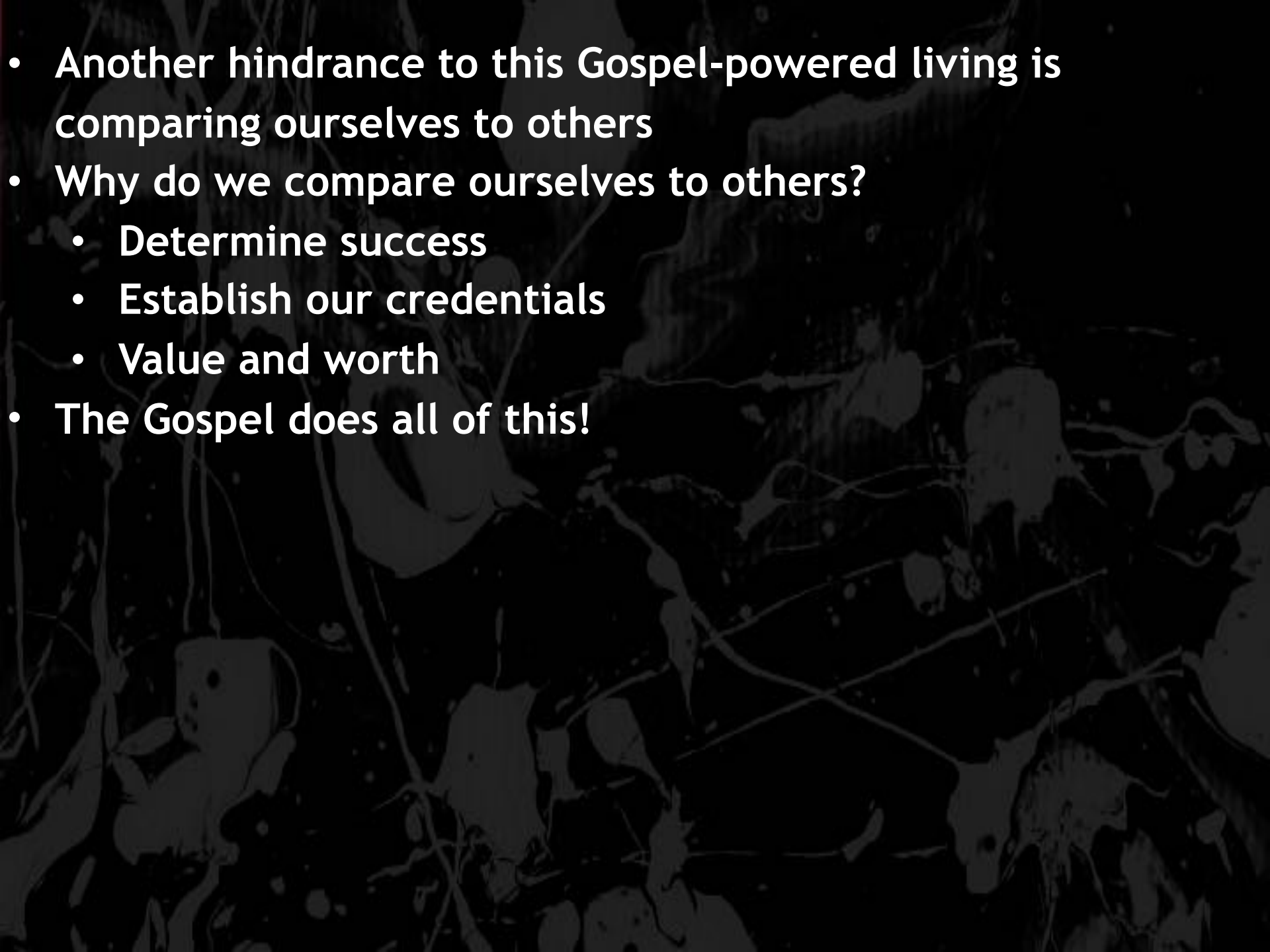
2 Corinthians 10:10-11

“10 For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible.” 11 Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when absent, such persons we are also in deed when present.”

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- **Where do some of these thoughts come from? False teachers**
 - **What are your qualifications for a teacher, speaker, mentor, shepherd?**

2 Corinthians 10:15-18

“15 not boasting beyond our measure, that is, in other men’s labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you, 16 so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another. 17 But he who boasts is to boast in the Lord. 18 For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.”

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- Another hindrance to this Gospel-powered living is comparing ourselves to others
 - Why do we compare ourselves to others?
 - Determine success
 - Establish our credentials
 - Value and worth
 - The Gospel does all of this!

2 Corinthians 11:1-3

“I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. 2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. 3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”

- **Another thing that keeps us from the daily power of the Gospel is an overly-complicated religion**
- **If we had to strip Christianity down to its core:**
 - **Daily companionship and love and power of Jesus leading to an eternity of soul satisfaction with God**
- **What about doctrine?**
 - **Both of these chapters are entirely about doctrine!**
 - **Believe and think right so your actions naturally fall into place**

2 Corinthians 11:12-15

“12 But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.”

- **Why is Paul all worked up?**
 - **He's desperate for their spiritual well-being**
- **1) They are in danger of missing out on the fullness of Christ**
- **2) They are in danger of being led astray in doctrine and life decisions**
- **Are you jealous for anyone like this?**
 - **Who are you teaching?**
 - **Who are you living Christianity with daily?**
 - **Who are you testing it out with and recalibrating where necessary?**
 - **Who are you praying and relying on the Spirit with?**

2 Corinthians 11:30-32

“30 If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. 31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. 32 In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me...”

- TSF needs some of you who are maturing believers to really read ch. 10-11
- All of our faith would be more sincere & pure if we would take this kind of passionate, well-grounded care of one another
- What's at stake if we don't?
 - The Church in belief and practice
 - The Gospel in power for the loss
- BTW- your "failures" put you in really good company to lead and impact others with the Gospel
 - Our basket experiences lower us so God can lift us up to be used in power
 - They don't disqualify us- they are redeemable!

- **Don't let the gospel be received in vain**
 - **Take my thoughts captive so I can live in the fullness of the gospel's power daily**
 - **Don't compare myself to others without realizing who I am is safe and secure in Jesus**
 - **Stay close to Jesus and seek to live with him every day**
 - **Step in to do battle with and for others so they know the all-changing power of the Gospel fresh and new each day!**