2 Corinthians and The God of Power

Susie Aldridge – 04 October 2026 watch talk here

Susie continued this series on Paul's letter to the Corinthian church in which he encourages believers to stay in the way of Jesus by reminding them what God is like. Paul writes to the Corinthians as someone who knows weakness, opposition and suffering. Yet he is convinced that weakness does not disqualify him or us from experiencing or displaying God's power.

In 2 Corinthians 4:5-18, Paul uses a metaphor: 'treasure in clay jars' to help the church understand how God's power works in and through us. We learn that we don't need to be impressive, strong or have everything together for God to use us. We are ordinary and imperfect people carrying an extraordinary treasure, freeing us from the pressure to perform, impress or prove ourselves. Our weakness makes it clear that what God does through us comes from his power, not our own. Like light shining through the cracks of a clay jar, the life and power of Jesus can become visible through our weakness.

While we might often associate God's power with dramatic breakthroughs, Paul also describes another expression of God's power*: "Hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."* (2 Corinthians 4:8–9)

Sometimes God's power **removes** the challenge.
At other times God's power **sustains us through** the challenge.

Reflect and discuss

Start by reading the key passage: **2 Corinthians 4:5–18**.

1. What particularly stands out to you from this passage or the talk?
2. Where have you experienced God's power? Share examples of breakthrough if you have them, but also consider experiences of God's sustaining power, strength, peace, hope or perseverance.
3. Have you ever wondered whether God could really use you because of a weakness, limitation or part of your story? What might this passage say into that?
4. **"Jesus is the treasure."** Susie suggested we can become so familiar with the gospel we lose some of our wonder at Jesus. What helps you remember the value of this treasure?

In smaller groups share honestly with each other:

5. Is there somewhere in your life where you're currently longing for God to change your circumstances? What might it look like simultaneously to ask him for the power to sustain you within them?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 again. What might it practically mean for you to "fix your eyes" on what is unseen and eternal this week?

Pray

Give space for people to name situations where they need God's power right now and pray for one another.