

Pastor Dave Rohde

For Sunday, March 1st "I Can't, God Can"

Psalm 121 – *NIV*

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
- ² My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
- ⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
- ⁸ the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 – *NIV*

¹ I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. ³ And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— ⁴ was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. ⁵ I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. ⁶ Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, ⁷ or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 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." 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 hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Takeaway: We follow Jesus by lifting our eyes and loosening our grip on the things we think we control.

Questions:

1. If you could REALLY control any ONE thing in the world (ANYTHING!), what would it be?
2. Reflect on Psalm 121. How do you feel about the concept of a God who does not "slumber nor sleep"?
3. Reflect on 1 Corinthians 12:9. What is the most difficult part about "receiving God's grace" for you?
4. What challenges do you see around the concept that grace is something that sustains us, not something that "solves" our problems?
5. Where are you struggling most today when it comes to letting go of control in your life?

Sermon: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20260301.mp3>

Service Video: https://youtu.be/JtQyY_G4874

Alternate Service Video: <https://wpcwestlake.livecontrol.tv/76f9e11a>