CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION WITH YOUR SMALL GROUP, FAMILY, OR IN YOUR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY TIME.

"When You. . . Can't"

"Just because you have been taught and shown how to do something, it doesn't necessarily mean that you have mastered doing it." — Pastor Steve

Read:

Isaiah 41:10 Philippians 4:6-7 Matthew 6:34

Do you trust what these verses teach?

Do you follow their instruction, or does it sometimes prove impossible to do so?

Be honest: Does it seem to you that someone like Christian Apologist Ravi Zacharias, or Christian Recording Artist Toby Mac, or Mrs. Janna Wells should be exempt from suffering? Those who have devoted their lives to serving God, that they might have special favor with Him?

What about the Toby Mac quote that Pastor Steve shared: "We don't follow God because we have some sort of under-the-table deal with Him, like, we'll follow you if you bless us."?

Do you know of people who treat God like that? Like He owes them something?

Do you know people who reject God because they think that God should act precisely that way with His people? That is, do you know someone who thinks that if God were good, he would keep His followers from all calamity?

Maybe that person IS or HAS BEEN you. Was there a time when you misunderstood what it means to follow Jesus? Did you think it was a guid pro guo scenario? "I do this for you, you do that for me. . . "

Why is the Christian faith not about what we get from God at all?

Why is it ok "WHEN YOU CAN'T"?

Why is it ok with God when you can't quite follow Him the way you were told to, when you can't quite measure up, when you don't get it exactly right?

Read: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Does Paul suggest that we should be free of weakness? Does God? Or, is weakness precisely the thing that unleashes God's Grace?

Where are you weak in your life that you try to hide? How would your testimony be stronger if, like Paul, you acknowledged your weakness?