

His Strength through My Weakness

To keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me — to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”

Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:7-9, NASB)

Has some guilt or failure plagued you repeatedly? Most of us believe Christ is faithful – if we repent. He forgives and enables us to be victorious over any weakness or temptation. But what do you do when you fail, repent sincerely, only to fail again, and again, and again?

Soon frustration sets in. Then come the doubts. Every new failure mocks not only you and your commitment, but your faith in God.

If you have reached that point of feeling totally aggravated and helpless, try this: take that sense of helplessness to God. Sometimes the only fruit of years of struggling is an overwhelming realization that we are totally inadequate to handle our own weaknesses.

But that realization is a great gift, only a small step of faith away from freedom, joy, and power in Christ.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness” (v.9).

We instinctively try to deal with our weaknesses ourselves by struggling harder, or by stricter self-discipline, or by some technique or program. We attempt to make ourselves adequate. Only when any illusion of our own ability is shattered do we release control to Him. Only when our total helplessness overwhelms us do we simply lay ourselves on Him.

Remember:

you fail, not because you are weak –
you will always be weak –
but because you do not trust God in that weakness.

If you’re finally at the end of yourself, look to Him and rejoice! He has brought you to a wonderful new beginning. You are ready for your first day in the school of dependence.

Hymn: [Father, You See Our Need](#)

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