



## Strength Through Weakness

**Series:** Quilted Promises

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

*“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.”*

- 2 Corinthians 12:9

In \_\_\_\_\_ there is strength through \_\_\_\_\_.

The emphasis is on the absolute, \_\_\_\_\_, utter \_\_\_\_\_ of the grace of Jesus for Paul in the \_\_\_\_\_ of his weakness.

What Jesus said in the past has ongoing \_\_\_\_\_.

v9 = *episkenoō* = “*may rest upon me*”

- *epi* - “on” or “on top of”
- *skenoo* - “a dwelling place” or “to pitch a tent”
  - John 1:14
  - Revelation 21:3
- Our weaknesses serve as the \_\_\_\_\_ for the indwelling \_\_\_\_\_ of God, as the theatre for Jesus’ glory.
- Our weakness becomes the \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ to \_\_\_\_\_ power.

Practically:

1. God uses trials to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ is greater than our \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God wants to change our \_\_\_\_\_, not just our \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ God even when you don’t \_\_\_\_\_.

**Go, and trust God’s transforming work!**

**Start talking.**

- What's something in your life you once saw as a weakness or limitation, but God used to teach you or bless others?

**Start thinking.**

- Read 2 Corinthians 12:7–10. What stands out to you most about Paul's attitude toward weakness?
- Why do you think God answered Paul's prayer with "My grace is sufficient" instead of removing the thorn? What does that teach us about prayer?
- Paul says that God's "power is made perfect in weakness." How is that the opposite of how our culture views strength and success?

**Start sharing.**

- Can you think of a time when God used a struggle, hardship, or limitation in your life to shape your character? What did you learn?
- When facing trials, do you tend to ask God to remove the situation or to transform you through it? Why?
- Where are you most tempted to rely on your own strength instead of God's grace?
- What would it look like this week for you to "boast in your weakness" so that Christ's power may rest on you?
- Paul trusted God's sufficiency even when he didn't get the answer he wanted. How can you practice that kind of trust in a current situation you're facing?

**Start praying.** Be bold and pray with power.

*Heavenly Father, thank You that Your grace is sufficient for all my needs. Help me to recognize and rejoice in the knowledge that Your power is made perfect in my own weakness. Help me to boast all the more gladly in my inabilities so that Your great ability may be manifest in my life. May everything I do be to Your praise and glory, my Lord and my God. In Jesus' name, AMEN.*

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week

- **Shift Your Prayer Focus** – Instead of only asking God to change your circumstances this week, intentionally ask Him to change your heart through them. Pray, "Lord, show me how your grace is sufficient for me today."
- **Embrace a Weakness** – Identify one area of weakness or struggle in your life and choose to invite God's strength into it. Share it with a trusted friend or your group, and let it become a place where Christ's power can rest on you.