**“When Weakness Works For You”**

**2 Corinthians 12:9, 10 (NIV)**

***“*(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.”***

**WEAKNESS**

* *A quality or feature regarded as an disadvantage or fault; the lack of strength to not do something*

In our printed passage, the apostle Paul asked the Lord to take away the **“thorn in his flesh”** that he was struggling with. However, the (a) portion of verse 9 is the Lord’s response, as he tells Paul that His power is made perfect in our human weakness. This is obviously a paradox, as we would never think that a **“weakness”** could make us stronger. But in God’s economy, God’s strength can shine through us more easily when we are weak.

* **Hebrews 11:32-34 (NIV)**

In our daily lives, we often face difficulties and challenges. We often find ourselves struggling with things about the unknown and the hardships we face. But Paul admonishes us to **“endure hardness like true soldiers of Jesus Christ”**, which is, most of the time, easier said than done. However, as Christians, though we do not have to despair or give up, we find hope and encouragement, because the Holy Spirit helps us when we are weak and struggling.

* **Romans 8:26-28 (NIV)**

As Christians, we are considered weak, because of God’s humility working in us. However, Jesus was actually filled with the power of God when he submitted his will to that of the Father, and that is the same for us. When Jesus lives in us, we can live by the power of God.

* **2 Corinthians 13:3, 4 (NIV)**
* **Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)**

There will be ministry moments when doing the will of the Father makes you feel weak. However, when we pray, God provides strength in the midst of that weak moment.

* **Matthew 26:41 (NIV)**
* **Luke 22:41-43 (NIV)**

Even though we have a weakness in the flesh, we cannot allow our weaknesses to make us miss our worth in God.

* **Romans 7:14-18; 24-25 (NLT)**

We must remember that God can and will use various people with physical, mental, financial, emotional, and spiritual weaknesses to perform various miracles. Check this out! **[Insert your weakness list]**

Let’s look at the Story of Mephibosheth.

* **2 Samuel 9 (NIV)**

**[Footnote]** Mephibosheth, the grandson of Saul and the son of Jonathan, who is David’s best friend, was dropped and became crippled making him weak. However, because King David remembered the **BLOOD COVENANT** he made with Mephibosheth’s father, Jonathan, Mephibosheth gets a favored seat at the king’s table. It’s the same with us and God. Even though we’ve been dropped and have become weakened by life’s circumstances, God remembers the **BLOOD COVENANT** he made with Jesus which now gives us a favored seat at the King’s table.

* **1 Corinthians 15:56, 57 (NIV)**