

March 4, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

**2 Cor. 12:9-10** *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. 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.* (NIV)

Many times when we pray and ask the LORD for something, we already have in mind what outcome we would like. Paul was praying that the LORD would relieve and remove this ‘thorn in the flesh.’ And surely the LORD could have done so. Nothing is too difficult for Him. But that was not the LORD’s will for Paul, and so He spoke to him and said, ‘My grace is sufficient.’ This is a deep and meaningful lesson for us all. What we desire does not always fit into the plan of our God. But this is what is so beautiful about His plans for us. His are always better for us. He tells Paul that His power is made perfect in Paul’s weakness. And this is nothing new for our LORD. He used a young slave and prisoner to bless two nations through Joseph. He used a scrawny little shepherd boy to take down the biggest giant Philistine. He used three young teenagers to show King Nebuchadnezzar that the furnace could not stand against the hand of the LORD. This has always been the LORD’s method. **1 Cor. 1:27** *But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.* (NIV)

Once we understand this, we will be able to see things from His perspective instead of our own. And this is why Paul could boast about his weaknesses, *so that Christ’s power may rest on me.* And it changed Paul’s perspective as well so that he *could delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties.* And lastly, it proved God’s provision to Paul: *for when I am weak, then I am strong.* A weak, reliant upon God, person is always more powerful than a strong, self-sufficient person.

**Dear LORD, help us to realize that You allow weaknesses in our lives to cause us to trust completely in You. You are all that we really need. In Jesus Name, Amen**