

My Weakness My Greatest Strength

Our strength must be God Himself; nothing in us can sustain what only He can supply - Isa 12:2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. **THE LORD, THE LORD, IS MY STRENGTH** and my song; he has become my salvation."

Jesus teaches us to rely solely on the Spirit, since the flesh—no matter how strong it appears—is always weak - Matt 26:41 - Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is WILLING, but THE FLESH IS WEAK." ESV

* **We've spent our energy building physical, mental, financial, and performance strength—yet all of it is limited. The only true strength, TOTAL RELIANCE ON GOD, is the one we overlook**

From the start, God showed us that what appears strong to us is not real strength - 1 Sam 16:6-7 - 6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "**Do not consider his appearance** or his height, for I have rejected him. **THE LORD DOES NOT LOOK AT THE THINGS MAN LOOKS AT**. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

God is not impressed or attracted to our individual strengths and neither should we be - 1 Cor 1:26-31 - 26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise BY HUMAN STANDARDS; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 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. 28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, 29 **SO THAT NO ONE MAY BOAST BEFORE HIM**. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: "**Let him who boasts boast in the Lord**."

Take David for example, no matter how mighty he seems to be the true hero of David and Goliath is David's faith in God – 1 Sam 17:45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you IN THE NAME OF THE LORD ALMIGHTY, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

"Fleshy strength" is worthless in all battles which are really spiritual - Eph 6:12 For OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Worldly strength leaves us vulnerable and sets us up for failure - Luke 11:21-23 - 21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. 22 **BUT WHEN SOMEONE STRONGER** attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man TRUSTED and divides up the spoils. 23 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters."

THE PATH TO TRUE STRENGTH

The secret to TRUE STRENGTH is weakness - 2 Cor 12:7-10 - 7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 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**.

This includes removing worldly wisdom to gain REAL Wisdom - 1 Cor 3:18-20 - 18 **Do not deceive yourselves**. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" **SO THAT HE MAY BECOME WISE**. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; 20 and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."

Follow Christ who lived weak while being strengthened in God - 2 Cor 13:4 For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, **YET HE LIVES BY GOD'S POWER**. Likewise, we are weak in him, **YET BY GOD'S POWER WE WILL LIVE** with him to serve you.

We have to know the true source of strength - Phil 4:13 I can do everything THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH.

We must consciously NOT depend on the flesh - Phil 3:3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

Use the Spiritual Weapons, not the weapons of the world. - 2 Cor 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

To be clear, WE MUST weaken self to obtain true strength –

Ps 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Phil 3:7-11 - 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. →

→ I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, **NOT HAVING A RIGHTEOUSNESS OF MY OWN THAT COMES FROM THE LAW, BUT THAT WHICH IS THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST** — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, **somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead**.