

The Weakness Verses

2 Corinthians 4:7-11 & 12:9-10 & 13:3b-4

New King James Version (Recommended for memorization – the bold text only, unless you wish to memorize the entire passage).

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – **always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.** For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, **that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.**

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Since you seek a proof of **Christ** speaking in me, who **is not weak toward you, but mighty in you. For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.**

J.B. Phillips (translation/paraphrase)

This priceless treasure we hold, so to speak, in a common earthenware jar– to show that the splendid power of it belongs to God and not to us. We are handicapped on all sides, but we are never frustrated; we are puzzled, but never in despair. We are persecuted, but we never have to stand it alone: we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out! Every day we experience something of the death of the Lord Jesus, so that we may also know the power of the life of Jesus in these bodies of ours. Yes, we who are living are always being exposed to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be plainly seen in our mortal lives.

His reply has been, “My grace is enough for you: for where there is weakness, my power is shown the more completely.” Therefore, I have cheerfully made up my mind to be proud of my weaknesses, because they mean a deeper experience of the power of Christ. I can even enjoy weaknesses, suffering, privations, persecutions and difficulties for Christ's sake. For my very weakness makes me strong in him.

The Christ you have to deal with is not a weak person outside you, but a tremendous power inside you. He was “weak” enough to be crucified, yes, but he lives now by the power of God. I am weak as he was weak, but I am strong enough to deal with you for I share his life by the power of God.

The Speaking of Christ [paraphrase by Daniel Yordy]

God Himself in Person lives in the vessels of our human flesh; this means that we never imagine that being filled with God ever makes us into “super-humans.” In contrast, as we go through the normal difficulty, confusion, painfulness, and failures of being a human in this world, we know that we bear in our bodies the same revelation of Father through weakness that Jesus bore as He took the whole creation into death. For the death of the Lord Jesus penetrates unceasingly and successfully all the way through all that we are. In exactly the same manner, it is the same life of Jesus that appears, is made clear and visible in full and open view, right now out from within our physical body, our presently dying flesh.

Jesus always speaks to me: “My presence all through your being and person, you in Me and I in you, is sufficient for you, for that which is truly power (not the command and zap stuff people lust after) finds its perfect expression in and through the very human weakness My Father created you to be. My ability to be who I am, to fulfill all that the Father speaks, is made perfect, fits perfectly, expresses itself perfectly, comes to fullness and completion all through your humanity just as you find yourself to be.”

Therefore I get excited when everything goes wrong, for it is in my human frailty that Jesus lives as me. I take pleasure in my lack of strength, in the feebleness of my health, in losing everything. I take pleasure in the wrongs committed against me by bullies, in mental injury, in being mocked and persecuted because I believe that Jesus reveals Himself through my affliction. I take pleasure in humiliation and sorrow, in dire calamity, in extreme trouble. For in and through all these elements of human weakness and difficulty, God reveals Himself as God.

Christ in you is not some separated person who helps you a little bit. Christ is not weak in His penetration of you (as those who “see” by outward sight imagine), but He operates powerfully inside of and from within you. Indeed He bore in His body the entire old creation out from weakness, taking all of it by weakness to the cross. Yet now He lives in us entirely out from the power of God. At the same time we are WEAK as we are encased entirely inside of Him, but we are being utterly fused together with His life in us now, He identifying with us and we with Him, out from the powerful penetration of God into us.