

In Our Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 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 in 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.

We all know people who, when going through unimaginable trials, seem to rise above their problems and comfort those around them. Their weakness becomes a strength, and we marvel at how they persevere. We have those, within our church and families, who are fighting cancer, and their smiles and love of God overshadows their fears and hardships. Those who have suffered the loss of a spouse or a child and yet they go on and give comfort to others. Those who are going through personal hardships and yet reach out to others to encourage. We all have trials but through it all God’s grace is sufficient. It is when we have nothing left Christ becomes our only strength.

In the poem “Grace knows” by Melissa K. Auten, we read “Grace finds peace in being powerless and surrendered. It is willing to endure uncertainty and a lack of knowledge of the terrain, for there is a sense of trust that whatever lies ahead the Shepherd is capable of guarding his own. Grace knows the path I take is sometimes difficult to tread. There are winding twists and turns, fearful heights to endure and deep valleys to descend into at times—and yet the Shepherd’s voice beckons me, “Come.” Grace knows what I cannot see, bears my uncertainties, and bids me to carry on despite my weakened condition. Grace knows my weakness is my strength, that my strength is not my own and that the Shepherd is my supply.”

On the days we feel we have nothing left to give, when our patience is at an end, when the problems seem to be overwhelming, when we have to step back and reach for strength, we find God waiting to give us his strength, his patience, his love, he waits, and he answers. Sometimes he answers with an encouraging phone call from a loved one, sometimes with a good day, sometimes with laughter shared, sometimes with a lesson from Paul and a bible verse, sometimes with a quiet respite provided by friends and sometimes with a sense of joy that fills our heart with the gift of another day. He watches over us, he loves us, he knows us, and he waits. We just need to open our hearts and let him in.

Lord, when we feel alone, remind us that we are never alone. May we serve each other and in so doing serve you. May we love each other and in doing this honor your love for each of us. We ask Lord that you be with those who are alone and lonely, be with the sick and those that grieve, may they feel your love. Be with those who suffer the ravages of war in Ukraine and those suffering the destruction of earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and those suffering lawlessness in Haiti. Be with our Pastor and bless his ministry and be with his family. Be with those doing mission work not only around the world but with those working in Florida from our church. Be with our staff and leaders, bless their work and be with them. We ask these things in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen

Grace Epperson