

THE TWO ADVANTAGES OF BEING WEAK

TEXT:

2 Corinthians 12:9-10: And He said unto me, My Grace is sufficient for thee: for My Strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the Power of Christ may rest upon me.

¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

2 Corinthians 13:4: For though He was Crucified through weakness, yet He liveth 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.

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible contains numerous *paradoxes*, and these two passages of Scripture are just a mere part of them.

- ▶ “When I am WEAK, then am I STRONG” - is such a seeming contradiction of *paradox*.
- ▶ Christ crucified through WEAKNESS and yet ***HE lives by the POWER of GOD*** - is another such *paradox*.

QUESTION: What is a *Paradox*?

ANSWER:

1. A statement that seems contradictory, and unbelievable, and absurd, but is actually true to FACT, or in FACTS - Webster's Dictionary.
2. A statement or doctrine or expression seems so absurd or contradictory to the received belief or to what would naturally be believed, but perhaps is really true - Funk & Wagnall Dictionary.

3. An opinion or statement contrary to received opinion; seemingly self-contradictory or absurd yet explicable as expressing a truth - New Century Dictionary.

2 Corinthians 6:-10:

⁹ As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

¹⁰ As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

1. These three texts do seem like contradictions.

When I'm WEAK, then am I STRONG is the first instance. Yet, it is not contradictory, for the Apostle Paul gives us his reason for his WEAKNESS becoming his STRENGTH.

He said that the Lord told him in 2 Corinthians 12:9

. . . MY strength is made perfect in weakness . . .

QUESTION: How is that?

ANSWER: If you or I have 75% of strength, then we will only rely upon The Lord for 25 % of HIS STRENGTH.

If I have 50% of my strength, then,

I would only rely upon The Lord for 50% of His strength.

If I have only 10% of strength, then,

I will more likely rely upon The LORD for 90% of His strength.

If I have only 5% of strength, then,

I'll have to rely on The LORD for 95% of His strength.

What is more understandable is: HIS strength is so much more perfect and powerful than any which I may have. So I'm the loser in relying too much on me and not enough upon HIM. That is why The Lord Jesus said:

John 15:5b: . . . without ME ye can do nothing.

This is the reason why Paul said:

2 Corinthians 12:9b: . . . I rather glory in my infirmities, that the Power of Christ may rest upon me.

ILLUSTRATION;

SAMSON was VERY STRONG when THE HOLY SPIRIT POWER was resting upon him. Yet, he was weak as water when it came to his inner spiritual strength of MORAL FIBER. He enjoyed being enticed and, on the other hand was MORALLY & SPIRITUALLY STRONG, and when Potiphar's wife sought to entice, allure and seduce him, he fled out of the house; after telling her;

Genesis 39:9b: . . . how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

2. Christ crucified through weakness, yet liveth by the Power of God – paradox #2

2 Corinthians 13:4: For though He was crucified through weakness, yet He liveth 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.

QUESTION: What!!! CHRIST WEAK??? How come?

Don't the Scriptures say . . .

1. Matthew 28:18: And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All Power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth.

2. Matthew 9:6-8: But that ye may know that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith He to the sick of the palsy,) "Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house."



⁷ And he arose, and departed to his house.

⁸ But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

3. ***Luke 4:14: And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of Him through all the region round about.***
4. ***Luke 10:19: Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.***



5. ***John 10:18: No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have Power to lay it down, and I have Power to take it again. This Commandment have I received of My Father.***
6. ***John 17:2: As Thou hast given Him Power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him.***
7. ***Acts 10:38: How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with Power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.***
8. ***Romans 1:3-4a: Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the Seed of David according to the flesh;*
*^{4a} And declared to be the Son of God with Power . . .***
9. ***1 Corinthians 5:4: In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the Power of our Lord Jesus Christ,***
10. ***Hebrews 1:3: Who being the brightness of His Glory, and the express Image of His Person, and upholding all things by the***

***Word of His Power, when He had by Himself purged our sins,
sat down on the Right Hand of the Majesty on High:***

QUESTION: All these Scriptures seem to contradict **2 Corinthians 13:4:**

***For though He was crucified through weakness, yet He liveth 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.***

- don't they?

1. First the *weakness* referred to in this verse is not HIS, but ours. For in the latter part of the verse it says: ***CHRIST LIVETH by the POWER of GOD.***
2. Secondly: When our Lord Jesus Christ came from Heaven to redeem us, HE laid HIS POWER and AUTHORITY aside. Thereby, He faced satan and temptation just like we do. That is why we read in ***Hebrews 4:15 – [this High Priest - Jesus] was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.***
 - ***The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do. John 5:19***
 - ***When ye have lifted up the Son of Man, then shall ye know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father hath taught Me, I speak these things. John 8:28***
 - ***And Jesus returned in the Power of the Spirit into Galilee: Luke 4:14***
 - ***How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with Power . . . Acts 10:38a***

APPLICATION:

The DIVINE POWER is available to all believers. And, our Christian service and effectiveness is only in the proportion to this Power working in us.

Ephesians 3:20: Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

1. *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Isaiah 40:29*
2. *. . . but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with Power from on High. Luke 24:49b*

THE SECOND ADVANTAGE OF BEING WEAK IS:

1 Corinthians 1:27b:

. . . God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

QUESTION: What is God Almighty up to in *1 Corinthians 1:27-29*?

1. **Choosing the foolish things of this world to confound the wise v27**
2. **Choosing the weak things of this world to confound the mighty v27**
3. **Choosing the base things of this world v28**
4. **Choosing the despised things v28**
5. **Choosing the things which are NOT to bring to nought the thing that are that no flesh would glory in His presence v28-29**

The Lord Jesus did not choose the Sanhedrin, or the Pharisees, or the doctors of the law (lawyers) to be His apostles. Please turn to:

1. *Acts 4:13: Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*
2. *John 7:15: And the Jews marvelled, saying, "How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?"*
3. *Matthew 13:54-55a: And when He was come into His Own country, He taught them in their Synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, "Whence hath this Man this wisdom, and these mighty works
^{55a} Is not this the carpenter's son?*
4. *Luke 4:16-20: And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, as His custom was, He went into the Synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read.*

17 And there was delivered unto Him the Book of the Prophet Esaias [Isaiah]. And when He had opened the Book, He found the place where it was written,

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable Year of the Lord."

20 And He closed the Book, and He gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the Synagogue were fastened on Him.

APPLICATION:

Our text says:

We also are WEAK in HIM, but we shall live with Him by THE POWER of GOD toward you. 2 Corinthians 13:4

QUESTION: What is this verse seeking to tell us?

ANSWER:

The more self-sufficient we are the more capable and qualified and knowledgeable we are, the less we will rely on the Lord.

The more inadequate we are - the much more

we will have to

rely on,

depend on, and

trust in HIM,

to work through us.



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