



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

Romans 8:26

Do you ever feel weak? I know I do. Weakness is a challenge every single one of us faces at times: weakness of body, mind or spirit (and, sometimes, all three wrapped together in one messy, frustrating package). Maybe we don't have the strength to walk or run as far as we'd like; or maybe we struggle with temptations that we wish we had the strength to avoid (I can't resist something sweet after every meal); or maybe our prayer life isn't what we want it to be (there's always room for improvement). There are myriad ways we can be weak. But God understands that we are weak, and time and again in scripture we read the reassurance that we are not left alone in our weakness, but that God works through it, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to strengthen us. God joins his strength to our weakness and somehow it is enough! It is enough to get us through the difficult things we face.

In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 Paul wrote, *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."*

Maybe rather than beating ourselves up for being weak, we should embrace the fact that, through our weaknesses, *God can be glorified*. Which is the point of our existence -to glorify God. When we say we want God to take and use every single part of us this means both the pretty and the ugly, which means understanding that he can use even our weakness for his good. Often, when I'm anxious about something -either worship or presentations or whatever -I find myself saying *"God, please help me be strong. But if you need me to fall flat on my face in order to help someone else, give me the courage to fall."* In other words, maybe -just maybe -my weakness can allow God to help someone else; because God can use it to draw others more fully to his side.

Above all, our imperfections point us to the *only One* who is perfect. Our weakness points us to the *only One* who is strong. Whatever you are feeling today, may you be strengthened and sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit working in your beautifully imperfect lives! We'll see you in church!

Pastor Kara

