



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

In Romans 8:26 Paul writes, *"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."*

Do you ever feel weak? I know I do. When I struggle to be healthy physically, emotionally or spiritually it makes me feel weak; and this is a challenge every single one of us face at some point (or several points) in our lives. Maybe we don't have the strength to walk or run as far as we'd like. Maybe we need other people to help us do things, and this feels really hard. Maybe we struggle with depression or anxiety that saps our joy and leaves us feeling hollow, and even getting out of bed in the morning is a struggle.. Maybe our prayer life isn't what we want it to be and we are disconnected from God. There are myriad ways we can feel weak.

But God understands that we are weak, and time and again in scripture he encourages us that we are not left alone in our weakness, but that he actually works *through* our weakness, *by the power of the Holy Spirit*, to do many things: sometimes to help us become stronger and sometimes to use our "weakness" to bless us and others. God comes alongside of us and joins his strength to our weakness, and somehow this helps sustain us through our struggles.

In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Paul wrote again about weakness, sharing that he had prayed that God would take away the "thorn in his side" (some unknown physical ailment Paul had) that caused him to be weak. Paul wrote of God's response to his prayers: *"he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'"* This completely changed how Paul saw his own weakness, and he was able to say, *"Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

In light of that, rather than beating ourselves up for being weak, we should embrace the fact that we are imperfect and thus, at times, feel weak, but God can take these weaknesses, and be glorified. Which is the point of our existence - to glorify God. So perhaps our prayer should be, *"Lord, I thank you that through your Spirit you help me be strong; but I also pray that you would use even my weakness to glorify your Kingdom. Amen."* Our imperfection points us to the only One who is perfect. Our weakness points us to the only One who is strong. Beauty out of ashes. I am thankful God can use our whole beings for the good of his kingdom. May the Peace of God be with you as you go about your week!

Pastor Kara

