



**OVERCOMING ADVERSITIES:
THE LAW OF STRENGTH THROUGH WEAKNESS – PASTOR ALTON TRIMBLE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2016**

The Law of Strength Through Weakness: To find the divine path of strength one must turn onto the road of weakness.

II CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 (NKJV)

II CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 (MSG)

Because of the extravagance of those revelations, and so I wouldn't get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan's angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, and then he told me, My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness. Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.

1. EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE WITH GOD OFTEN COMES AT A PERSONAL COST.
2. HUMAN ARROGANCE IS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT OF GROWTH OR PROGRESS FROM THE PLACE OF WEAKNESS.
3. GOD HAS A REMEDY, IT'S CALLED DIVINE RESTRAINT.
4. WE ALL GET TO BE "MEMBERS IN THE THORN IN THE FLESH" CLUB.
 - a. Paul's thorn in the flesh.

II CORINTHIANS 12:7 (NKJV)

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

GALATIANS 4:13-15 (NKJV)

You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. ¹⁴ And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ What^[a] then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.

GALATIANS 6:11 (NKJV)

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

5. WHATEVER THE THORN OR STAKE IN PAUL’S FLESH, SATAN MEANT IT FOR HIS UNDOING BUT GOD USED IT FOR HIS GOOD.

- a. Affliction can be a blessing in disguise.
- Can be the impetus for growth or increase.

EXODUS 1:12 (NKJV)

But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel.

- Can cause clarity of heart and mind therefore brings peace and sweet relief.

JOB 5:17 (NKJV)

Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty.

- Can result in our being better instead of bitter.

JOB 23:10 (NKJV)

But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

- Can be the impetus for our returning to God.

PSALM 78:34 (NKJV)

When He slew them, then they sought Him; and they returned and sought earnestly for God.

PSALM 119:67 (NKJV)

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.

- Can enable proper perspective of God and self.

DANIEL 4:28-37 (NKJV)

- Can be an opportunity for God’s glory to manifest on our behalf.

II CORINTHIANS 4:17 (NKJV)

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory...

- Can produce fruit of righteousness.

HEBREWS 12:11 (NKJV)

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

6. THE PROCESS OF GROWTH IN REALIZING STRENGTH OUT OF WEAKNESS.

II CORINTHIANS 12:8-9 (NKJV)

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ 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.

- The first part of growth in managing dis-abilities :
- a. Acceptance of my dis-abilities is the first step to my growth beyond them.

II CORINTHIANS 12:8 (NKJV)

- Jacob's cry for help.

GENESIS 32:26 (NKJV)

And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

- Moses' cry of intercession.

EXODUS 32:31-32 (NKJV)

- Solomon's cry for wisdom.

I Kings 3:7-9 (NKJV)

- David's cry for cleansing.

PSALM 51:1-2 (NKJV)

- The penitent thief's cry.

LUKE 23:42 (NKJV)

Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

- Philippian jailer's cry

ACTS 16:30 (NKJV)

And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

- b. Learning to successfully live with dis-abilities, struggles or issues in your life.

II CORINTHIANS 12:9 (NKJV)

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.

So what does the Bible tells us about His grace?

- Is sufficient for all human needs.

II CORINTHIANS 12:9 (NLT)

Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

- Given to sinful men.

I TIMOTHY 1:12-14 (NKJV)

- Manifest in sacrifice.

II CORINTHIANS 8:9 (NLT)

You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.

- The source of power.

II TIMOTHY 2:1 (NLT)

Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus.

II TIMOTHY 2:1 (NCV)

You then, Timothy, my child, be strong in the grace we have in Christ Jesus.

- c. God’s strength in weakness.

- Seen in God’s choice.

I CORINTHIANS 1:27-31 (NKJV)

- Christ is our example.

II CORINTHIANS 13:14 (NKJV)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

- Faith is a prerequisite.

HEBREWS 11:33-34 (NKJV)

- d. Promised to the afflicted in:

- Brighter days

PSALM 30:5 (NKJV)

For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.

- Deliverance

PSALM 34:19 (NKJV)

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

- Divine Care in sickness

PSALM 41:3 (NKJV)

The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.

- Comfort of His presence

ISAIAH 43:2 (NKJV)

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.

- An eternal home

JOHN 14:1-2 (NKJV)

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

- All things work for our good

ROMANS 8:28 (NKJV)

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

II CORINTHIANS 4:17 (NKJV)

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

- Final deliverance from sorrow and pain.

REVELATION 21:4 (NKJV)

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

- e. To move to strength in weakness you must have divine conviction or resolve.

- David at the death of his son

II SAMUEL 12:23 (NKJV)

But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

- Job in his crises of loss

JOB 1:21 (NKJV)

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”

- Christ facing the cross

MARK 14:36 (NKJV)

And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.”

JOHN 18:11 (NKJV)

So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?”

- Paul’s friend

ACTS 21:1-14 (NKJV)

7. TAKE IT ALL IN STRIDE.

II CORINTHIANS 12:10 (MSG)

I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ’s strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.