STUDIES



CORNERSTONE

“WEAK MADE STRONG IN THE SAVIOUR’S LOVE”

- HIS STRENGTH MADE PERFECT IN OUR WEAKNESS

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9, MATTHEW 11:28

Perhaps one of the greatest feelings of security known to a child is when, overwhelmed by childhood fears and dangers, a powerful parent effortlessly sweeps them up out of harm’s way.

We can all imagine various forms of guardianship both big and small, and yet, the result is the same. The strength of the parent is highlighted by the comparative weakness of the child. A child has no need to compete with the parent’s strength or leadership. They can happily focus on whatever they need to and when strength is needed, it is drawn from the parent and not from themselves, because the child’s strength is insufficient for the task. The parent delights in lending their strength, for it comes out of their overflowing love for the child and the child does not think less of themselves for needing the parent. Through the parent’s strength the child is strong, far stronger than if the child was on their own.

Jesus’ love and grace strengthens us in a similar way. In 2 Cor 12:9 it tells us that Jesus’ grace is wholly and completely sufficient for us and His strength is made perfect in our weakness. In Matt 11:28, Jesus is calling us to Himself, anyone who is tired or burdened. He wants to give us rest! Not only is Christ’s strength revealed through our weakness, we become strengthened because it’s not our own strength but God’s. When it’s no longer about our strength but God’s strength, it opens a door for Christ to work through us and makes it possible for His power to be seen by all, and in the process becomes a testimony to Him. Though we are weak, through Christ and His love for us, we are made strong.

CONNECTION AND ACTION

Q: What are some things or people that you rely in your day-to-day life? (Leaders Tip: You can make this a light-hearted discussion).

Q: “I dare not trust the sweetest frame” - What are some things that can be attractive but dangerous to rely on for strength instead of Jesus?

Q: Have you ever been strengthened by someone else? Describe the experience.

Q: Describe an area in your life that used to be weak but has now become strong. How did that happen?

Q: “But wholly trust in Jesus’ name” - What are some barriers you’ve experienced to trusting God?

Q: What have you learned about consistently choosing Jesus when you’re tired, stressed or weak?

NOTES

BIBLE AND BELIEF

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-6, 15:9-10 & 2 Corinthians 3:4-6.

Q: What does Paul mean when he says “we watered but God caused the growth”?

Q: What does Paul mean when he says “our competency comes from God”?

Q: What perspective on “grace” and “work” is Paul providing in 1 Cor 15:10?

Q: What can we learn from these scriptures about the way in which God’s strength and our efforts work together?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Q: What human tendency do you think Jesus’ statement “My grace is sufficient for you” is intended to counter?

Q: What do you think Jesus meant when he told Paul “my power is made perfect in weakness”? How do you think it works?

Q: Do you think v9 can be applied to all forms of human weakness? If so, how? If not, why not?

Q: In v10, Paul says he “delights in weakness.” Does that mean all weakness? Are there some weaknesses we’re meant to have overcome?

Q: Which of your weaknesses are you glad Jesus’ grace is sufficient for?

NOTES

GROWING LEADERSHIP

Q: What have you learned about carrying the pressures and responsibilities of leadership in the grace and strength of God?

Q: What have you learned about continuing to lead strongly when there are challenges and difficulties in your personal life? Give an example.

Q: What indicators tell us whether our ministry team members are strong or stressed?

Q: How can we help those we lead develop resilience in life and ministry?

Q: Give an example of a time God broke through in the life of your connect group or team.

NOTES

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU

OUR PRAYER IS THAT YOU WOULD DISCOVER THE AUTHOR OF LOVE... THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. HIS LIFE AND DEATH REPRESENT THE GREATEST GIFT OF LOVE THE WORLD WILL EVER SEE... "THIS IS REAL LOVE – NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON AS A SACRIFICE TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS." 1 JOHN 4:10 (NLT)... GOD PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE SENDING HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST, WHO DIED ON THE CROSS IN OUR PLACE AND ROSE AGAIN TO PROVE HIS VICTORY, RESTORE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND EMPOWER US FOR LIFE. IT IS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST THAT WE CAN KNOW AND BE RECONCILED WITH GOD... ALL WE NEED TO DO IS BELIEVE IN HIM AND ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR. IT IS AS SIMPLE AS PRAYING A PRAYER... ASKING JESUS TO MEET YOU RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE... IT IS A BRAND NEW START OF LIVING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD... IF YOU ARE NOT SURE THAT YOU PERSONALLY KNOW THE LORD JESUS, WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE THIS YOUR PRAYER TODAY **// Dear Lord Jesus, Thank You for dying on the cross for me. Thank You for Your amazing love. I repent of my sins and thank You for Your forgiveness. Please come into my life and give me a fresh start. I believe in You and accept You as my Lord and Saviour. I am now a Christian – a follower of Jesus Christ and You now live in me. Help me to live my life for You from this day forward. Amen. //** IF YOU HAVE PRAYED THIS PRAYER TODAY, WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! PLEASE WRITE TO US AT HILLSONG CHURCH, PO BOX 1195, CASTLE HILL, NSW 1765, AUSTRALIA OR EMAIL US AT

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