

*Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (NIV)*

## **Being Weak**

Do I have to be weak? Isn't there any other choice? Can't I be strong? Can't I be bold and courageous. Can't I be steady and immovable? Can't I be a force to be reckoned with? Maybe, I'm going a little over the top. But, why can't I have and be everything I need? Those are questions of the past that frequently occupied my heart and mind. I have never been a fan of being weak. I have never enjoyed not having or being everything, I need. I have wanted to be equal to every task. I have wanted to be bold and confident and strong. I have wanted every gift and talent and ability so I could accomplish every plan and fulfill every purpose. But, I have come to understand that it is a very good thing I have not had or been all I have needed. **Why is that?** As weak as I am, I have still struggled with being self-reliant and self-sufficient and self-centered. I could keep listing how I have depended on myself. **There is no need, we both get the idea.**

It has been a good to come to realize that I don't have and am not all I need. **Why is that?** I have come to rely on you. I have come to ask for your help. I have asked you to be strong in my weakness. My weakness has caused me to live in a more intimate relationship with you. **That's true.** You have heard and answered your prayer. **How so?** You have worked in and through my weaknesses. You have given me your courage and strength. You have made me bold and steady. You have given me all I have needed to accomplish your plans and fulfill your purposes. It is only because I have relied on you that I have been able to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Only in my weakness have I come to know that your power was resting on me. **That's is very good.**

So, I give you thanks and praise for not making me strong. Thank you for causing me to come to rely on you. Thank you for working in and through my life. Thank you that I can live and walk in an intimate relationship with you. Nothing has been better than knowing that you are working in and through my life. **Keep on relying on me.** Yes Lord, I will.

*Lord, I don't like being weak. Being weak has been frustrating. Being weak has been scary. Being weak has been uncomfortable. I can give thanks for being weak. Being weak has caused me to rely on you. Being weak has allowed you to work in and through me. Amen*

**Prayer***When I Am Weak*

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

NIV

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

**Prayer***When I Am Weak*

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 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.

ESV

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

**Prayer***When I Am Weak*

Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. 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. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

NLT

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

**Prayer***When I Am Weak*

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 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. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

NKJV

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

**Prayer***Whenever I Am Weak*

Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, 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.

NRSV

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

**Prayer***The Weaker I Get*

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.

MSG

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

**Prayer***When I Am Weak*

Three times I called upon the Lord *and* besought [Him] about this *and* begged that it might depart from me; But He said to me, My grace (My favor and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully]; for My strength *and* power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) *and show themselves most effective* in [your] weakness. Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses *and* infirmities, that the strength *and* power of Christ (the Messiah) may rest (yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me! So for the sake of Christ, I am well pleased *and* take pleasure in infirmities, insults, hardships, persecutions, perplexities *and* distresses; for when I am weak [in human strength], then am I [truly] strong (able, powerful in divine strength).

AMP

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

**Prayer***When I Am Weak*

Three different times I begged God to make me well again. Each time he said, "No. But I am with you; that is all you need. My power shows up best in weak people." Now I am glad to boast about how weak I am; I am glad to be a living demonstration of Christ's power, instead of showing off my own power and abilities. Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am quite happy about "the thorn," and about insults and hardships, persecutions and difficulties; for when I am weak, then I am strong—the less I have, the more I depend on him.

TLB

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

**Prayer***When I Am Weak*

Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

NASB

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

**Prayer***When I Am Weak*

I begged the Lord three times to take this problem away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is enough for you. When you are weak, my power is made perfect in you." So I am very happy to brag about my weaknesses. Then Christ's power can live in me. For this reason I am happy when I have weaknesses, insults, hard times, sufferings, and all kinds of troubles for Christ. Because when I am weak, then I am truly strong.

NCV

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

# When I Am Weak

Day \_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

**Prayer** – 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

**In Context:** Read 2 Corinthians 12

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (NIV)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Three times | I pleaded | with | the Lord | to | take it away | from me. | But | he said | to me, | "My grace | is sufficient | for you, | for | my power | is made perfect | in weakness." | Therefore | I will | boast | all the more gladly | about | my weaknesses, | so that | Christ's power | may rest | on me. | That is why, | for Christ's sake, | I delight | in weaknesses, | in insults, | in hardships, | in persecutions, | in difficulties. | For when | I am weak, | then | I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (NIV)

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I don't like being weak. Being weak has been frustrating. Being weak has been scary. Being weak has been uncomfortable. I can give thanks for being weak. Being weak has caused me to rely on you. Being weak has allowed you to work in and through me. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you repeatedly pleaded with the Lord to remove one of your weaknesses?

How likely is it that you would come to rely on the Lord if you had no weaknesses?

**When has one of your weaknesses forced you to come to rely on the Lord?**

**How has the Lord been able to work in and through you because you were weak?**

How has God received greater honor and glory because He worked in and through your weakness?

When have you been able to rejoice in spite of your weaknesses, hardships and difficulties?

**When have you known without a doubt that God's power was resting on you?**

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Come to rely on the Lord by allowing Him to work in and through your weaknesses.

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**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will work in and through your weaknesses.

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**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has worked in and through your weakness.

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**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you allow the Lord to work in and through your weakness.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will allow you to work in and through my weakness.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how do you want to work in and through my weakness today?*

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