



Please take a few minutes every day to read the daily devotionals. They will help you reflect on Paul's message about finding strength in Christ. I hope you find these devotionals valuable.

- Pastor Mark Jarema

OSunday: Strength in Weakness

Scripture: "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." (2 Corinthians 12:9b)

Story: Sarah was a successful lawyer known for her sharp mind and relentless drive. Her career was thriving, but everything changed when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. The disease brought her to her knees, both physically and emotionally. She felt her life unraveling as she grappled with her new limitations. Despite her circumstances, Sarah chose to cling to her faith. She began sharing her journey with her church, understanding the importance of sharing one's struggles and found that her honesty about her struggles resonated deeply with others. People were drawn to her story, finding hope and strength in her unwavering faith. Sarah discovered that her weakness allowed Christ's power to shine through her in ways she never imagined. Her vulnerability became her strength, and she became a living testament to God's sustaining grace.

Reflection: Our weaknesses are not something to hide but to embrace. They remind us of our humanity and our need for God's strength. When we boast about our weaknesses, we allow Christ's power to rest on us and shine through us to others. Instead of striving to appear perfect, let's embrace our imperfections and rely on God's perfect power.

Prayer: Lord, help me embrace my weaknesses, knowing that Your strength is perfect in them. Teach me to boast about my weaknesses so that Your power may rest on me and be evident to those around me. Amen.

Monday: Grace Sufficient

Scripture: "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" (2 Corinthians 12:9a)

Story: John owned a small family business passed down through generations. He struggled to keep the business afloat when the economy took a downturn. Despite his best efforts, sales plummeted, and John feared he would have to close the doors for good. He felt like a failure and questioned his worth. In despair, John turned to prayer, asking God for a miracle. While the business did not miraculously recover, John began to notice small blessings each day – the support of his family, the kindness of loyal customers, and the peace from his time in prayer. God's grace became evident in his struggle, giving him the strength to endure. John realized that while his circumstances didn't change as hoped, God's grace was sufficient to sustain him through the tough times.

Reflection: God's grace is sufficient, even when our circumstances don't change how we want. Sometimes, the greatest miracles are found in the everyday moments of grace that God provides. When we trust in His grace, we find the strength to endure our trials and the peace that surpasses understanding.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your sufficient grace. Help me to recognize Your grace in my life, even when my circumstances are difficult. Teach me to rely on Your power and find peace in Your presence. Amen.

Tuesday: Thorn in the Flesh

Scripture: "Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me." (2 Corinthians 12:7b)

Story: Emily had always been self-conscious about her speech impediment. Growing up, she faced ridicule from her peers, and as an adult, she often avoided public speaking. Despite excelling academically and professionally, her "thorn" constantly reminded her of her limitations. When her church asked her to share her testimony, Emily hesitated but felt a nudge from the Holy Spirit. With trepidation, she agreed. She stumbled over words as she spoke, but her sincerity and courage moved the congregation. Her vulnerability allowed others to see the strength of her faith. Many approached her afterward, sharing how her story had touched them deeply. Emily realized that her "thorn" was not a hindrance but a tool God used to reach others.

Reflection: Sometimes, our "thorns" serve a greater purpose than we can see. They keep us humble and reliant on God. Our weaknesses can be what God uses to touch others and demonstrate His power. Instead of seeing our thorns as obstacles, let's view them as opportunities for God's grace to shine through us.

Prayer: Lord, help me see the purpose in my struggles and trust that You can use them for good. Teach me to embrace my weaknesses and rely on Your strength. Amen.

Wednesday: Boasting in Weakness

Scripture: "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 12:10)

Story: Michael was a devoted Christian working in a corporate environment where faith was often met with skepticism. His colleagues mocked him for his beliefs, and he faced daily insults and challenges. Instead of responding with anger or bitterness, Michael responded with love, grace, and steadfast faith. His quiet strength in the face of adversity puzzled his coworkers. Over time, his unwavering faith led some to inquire about the source of his peace. Michael shared his testimony, explaining how his faith in Christ gave him the strength to endure hardships. His story

moved his colleagues, and some even began exploring their own spiritual journeys. Michael's response to persecution became a powerful testimony to his strength in Christ.

Reflection: Our response to hardships can be a powerful testimony to others about our strength in Christ. When we delight in our weaknesses and difficulties, we allow God's power to be evident in our lives. Our strength in adversity can lead others to seek the source of our peace and faith.

Prayer: Lord, help me to delight in my weaknesses, knowing that Your power is revealed through them. Teach me to respond to hardships with grace and love and to be a witness to Your strength in my life. Amen.

Thursday: Paul's Vision and His Thorn

Scripture: "I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven." (2 Corinthians 12:2a)

Story: Paul's vision of heaven was an extraordinary experience that could easily lead to pride. God allowed him to have a thorn in his flesh to keep him humble. This thorn, though a source of torment, served a greater purpose. It kept Paul dependent on God and reminded him of his need for divine grace. Similarly, we may experience moments of spiritual highs followed by challenges that keep us grounded. These experiences teach us humility and reliance on God. They remind us that our spiritual journeys are not about our strength or achievements but God's grace working in and through us. Like Paul, we can find comfort in knowing that God is with us in both the extraordinary and the humbling moments.

Reflection: Our spiritual journeys often include both extraordinary experiences and humbling challenges. Both are essential for our growth. The highs remind us of God's glory and power, while the lows keep us humble and dependent on His grace. Embracing both helps us grow closer to God and rely more fully on His strength.

Prayer: Father, thank You for the extraordinary moments that draw me closer to You. Help me also to embrace the challenges that keep me humble and reliant on Your grace. Teach me to see Your purpose in every aspect of my journey. Amen.

Friday: Power Perfected in Weakness

Scripture: "Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me." (2 Corinthians 12:8)

Story: Lisa had battled anxiety for years. She prayed fervently for relief, pleading with God to remove the constant fear and worry. Despite her prayers, the anxiety remained. Feeling discouraged, Lisa sought help through counseling, joined a support group, and deepened her

prayer life. Over time, she learned to manage her anxiety, finding peace in God's presence and strength through the support of her community. Lisa realized that while her anxiety had not disappeared, God had given her the tools and support to cope. Her journey became a testimony to others struggling with similar issues. Lisa's story showed that even when God doesn't remove our struggles, He provides the strength to endure them and the grace to find peace in their midst.

Reflection: Sometimes, God's answer to our prayers is not to remove the struggle but to give us the strength to endure it. In our weakness, His power is made perfect. We can find peace and strength even in our struggles by relying on God and seeking support. Our stories can inspire and encourage others who face similar challenges.

Prayer: Lord, give me the strength to endure my struggles and the faith to trust in Your perfect plan. Help me to find peace in Your presence and to seek support when needed. Use my journey to encourage and inspire others. Amen.

Saturday: Finding Strength in Community

Scripture: "I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." (2 Corinthians 12:9b)

Story: David felt a deep sense of failure and isolation after losing his job. He struggled with feelings of inadequacy and depression. Desperate for support, he shared his struggles with his church community. To his surprise, many others had faced similar situations and were eager to offer support and encouragement. Their stories and shared experiences gave David new strength and perspective. He realized he was not alone in his weaknesses and that God had placed him in a community for a reason. They found hope and encouragement together, knowing they were not alone in their struggles. David's willingness to be vulnerable allowed Christ's power to rest on him and strengthened his faith.

Reflection: Sharing our weaknesses can lead to mutual encouragement and a deeper experience of God's power. When we are open about our struggles, we create space for God to work through our community and for His power to be evident in our lives. We can find strength and hope by supporting one another, knowing we are not alone.

Prayer: Lord, help me to be open about my weaknesses and to find strength in the community You've placed around me. Teach me to support others in their struggles and to rely on Your power. Use my story to encourage and uplift those around me. Amen.