

**For When I Am Weak, Then I Am Strong**  
**March 15, 2009**

*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 12:9-10 (p. 1149)

**Our only strength is in the Lord.**

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.* -- Ephesians 6:10-11 (p. 1160)

*Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ.*  
-- 2 Corinthians 1:21 (p. 1142)

**How can our strength be in someone else?**

**1. Strength grows as the larger purpose is served.**

*From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.* – Ephesians 4:16 (p. 1158)

**2. Strength grows as we help others experience joy**

*"Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."* – Nehemiah 8:10b (p. 479)

**3. Strength grows as others lift us up.**

*"Because of the oppression of the weak and the groaning of the needy, I will now arise," says the LORD. "I will protect them from those who malign them."* – Psalm 12:5 (p. 537)

*He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.* -- Isaiah 40:31 (p.714)

**4. Strength grows with hope.**

*And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.* – Romans 5:2b

*"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."* -- Romans 8:18

**Being conscious of our weakness is key to gaining strength in the Lord.**

*... you are weak in your natural selves.* – Romans 6:19a

*I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.* – Romans 7:18 (p. 1118)

**Warning signs we are not conscious enough of our weakness**

**1. We are confident we have the situation under control.**

*"The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord."* – Joshua 9:14 (p. 216)

**2. We are content with our effort.**

*For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing* -- Romans 7:19 (p. 1118)

**3. We think we are standing firm.**

*So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!* – 1 Corinthians 10:12 (p. 1135)