

# ***Pastor's Ponderings***

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## ***“God’s Strength through Your Weakness”***

by

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***Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. <sup>9</sup>Each time he said, "My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me. <sup>10</sup>Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am quite content with my weaknesses and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.***

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 NLT

Have you ever prayed so earnestly for God to do something you desperately wanted Him to do, only to seemingly have the answer be “NO”? Well that’s exactly what is going on in the scripture above. The Apostle Paul begged God to take away a physical ailment in his life. The answer he got was not the one he wanted.

What Paul did get was comfort in knowing God is in control. God is sovereign. That means God knows what is best for your life, too.

Sometimes we want God to do something so badly, like Paul we beg, hoping we’ll get the answer we want. Well, as the scripture above indicates, (and plenty of others) there is absolutely nothing wrong with begging God (earnestly praying) to intervene in life’s circumstances. What’s difficult for us to understand is the fact that God may want to demonstrate, ***"My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness."*** In other words the answer might be ***“NO!”*** And it might be ***“NO”*** so God can demonstrate “His Strength through Your Weakness.”

I’m not talking about allowing sin to control your life. That is not what Paul was talking about, either. You know people who

are controlled by some sin in their lives and they say they can’t give it up for whatever reason. The truth is they can give it up (whatever “it” is) if they’ll trust Jesus Christ. Paul is not talking about sin as a weakness. He is talking about physical ailments.

Paul had some sort of physical deformity (weakness) that he thought was hindering him from serving God to his fullest potential. What he couldn’t see for a long time was that God was using the physical ailment to demonstrate His power at work in Paul’s life. God’s answer to Paul’s request for healing was in a word, “NO!” God knew what was best for Paul and knew how to demonstrate, ***"My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness."*** God’s strength could and would be revealed in Paul’s weakness.

Do you remember the old TV show from the 50’s and 60’s, “Father Knows Best?” Dad always had the right answer in every episode. And as best as I can remember, every episode had a happy ending. I know I never, ever watched an episode and then later thought, “Why did he do that?” I always knew the reason the father character made the decisions he made. He wanted the very best for his family. His decisions for his children were always based on his great love for them, regardless of what they had done or what they wanted. Sometimes Betty, Bud, or Kathy (the children in those episodes) didn’t understand or didn’t agree with their dad, but they always knew he loved them and they could depend on him to always “Know Best.”

Doesn’t that sound exactly like what our heavenly Father does for us? As Father, He always knows best and always demonstrates His love for His children regardless. God is always in control. God is sovereign. God may want to show you, ***"My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness."***

Maybe, your faith will become stronger because of your weakness. Maybe, others will see how God works through you and will be drawn closer to Him. God doesn’t change (Hebrews 13:8). God did it through Paul. He will do it through you, too. Glory be to God.