

Strength in Weakness

In 2 Corinthians, Paul discussed his many trials and hardships in preaching the gospel (2 Cor. 4:7-11; 6:3-10; 11:23-33; 12:7-10). After mentioning all of his trials, he wrote: “for when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10). Paul’s “weak” life of serving Christ, which included many trials and tribulations, caused him to gain his “strength” from Christ. This was Paul’s great paradox: spiritual strength in the midst of physical weakness.

Some people are weak in weakness (Proverbs 30:7-9; Hebrews 12:12-13). They give up under pressure. Some people are weak in strength (Exodus 5-11; Judges 14-16; Job 12:21; 38:4; Proverbs 18:11; Revelation 17-18). They are morally weak, though physically strong.

We, however, must be strong in weakness (Hebrews 11:35). Great things may happen our life, but we must not lose sight of our dependence upon God (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). We must guard against pride and self-confidence (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Spiritual strength comes through faith and obedience to God (Jeremiah 9:23-24). It also comes through a strong relationship with Christ and his word (Ephesians 3:16; Colossians 1:11). Some areas of our life may need spiritual attention (Revelation 3:2) and then we can be strong enough to help others (Luke 22:32). Like Paul, let’s be strong when we are weak. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Ability, plus opportunity, equals responsibility.
- Prayer is the attitude of gratitude.
- Don’t blame God for the harvest when it’s you who are doing the sowing.
- You can take your spotted past and turn it into a spotless future.
- People who are “in love” still need to listen to good, biblical advice.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Are You Sufficient?

Friend, are you all-sufficient? Do you have everything you need to make it through life? The answer to this question will vary depending upon who you ask. You may be thinking “Yes, I’m sufficient.” But, the government, for example, says “No, you need more control and I will give it to you.” The world answers “No, you need more things and I will give them to you.” Religion answers “No, you need more spirituality and I will give it to you.”

Being told by many people around us that we are insufficient leads to constant doubt, discontentment, and dissatisfaction. Faithful Christians, however, have all they need in Christ. The book of Colossians is about the “all-sufficient Christ” (see Colossians 1:9-11,15-19; 2:2-3,9-10; 3:11,16; 4:12). The Christian in Christ has “all” that one needs in life. Let’s consider a few of the sufficiencies that a faithful Christian has in Christ.

We Serve An All-Sufficient God

The God we serve is sufficient to supply every need we have because he is all-powerful (2 Corinthians 3:5; 9:8;

Ephesians 3:20; Philippians 4:7). False gods of men, on the other hand, are not sufficient because they are powerless like the men who make them (Isaiah 44:9ff).

We Proclaim An All-Sufficient Savior

The savior (Jesus Christ) we proclaim is sufficient to save mankind from their sins because he is the divine Son of God (John 14:6; Acts 4:11-12; 2 Corinthians 12:9). The false saviors of the world are insufficient because they are merely human (Matthew 24:5,23-24; Acts 5:36-37).

We Preach An All-Sufficient Gospel

The gospel we preach is sufficient to save because it is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16; Ephesians 1:13). The false gospels of men, such as the “social gospel,” are insufficient to save because they appeal to the flesh and come from man and not God (Galatians 1:6-9).

We Promote An All-Sufficient Church

The local church (an assembly of Christians) we promote is sufficient to act because it is organized (with elders, deacons, and saints) in a way to accomplish all

that the Lord has given it to do: evangelism, edification, and benevolence (see the local church in Acts 2-13). The false organizations of men, such as “institutionalism” or the “sponsoring church,” are insufficient, unauthorized, and cause problems and divisions.

We Practice An All-Sufficient Word

The word we practice is sufficient to guide us in every way because it is inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3). The words of men are insufficient because they are untrue, unreliable, and do not come to pass (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

The All-Sufficient Christian

As faithful Christians, we are not all-sufficient because of anything in ourselves. We are not claiming to be self-reliant, or in no need of God and Jesus (Revelation 3:17). We are all-sufficient because of our relationship with God and Jesus! Therefore, because we are all-sufficient let us never quit. We have the means to make it through. Let us never change. We have the old way that is God’s way. Let us never add to what God has said. We have all the truth he wants for us. - *Chris Reeves*