

Meaning and Examples of Weakness

Do you ever find times in your life when you are not as strong as you should be as a Christian? Do you feel like, at times, that your strength has been destroyed, and you find yourself in a quiet? Those are times when we might cry out to God, "Lord, give me strength." But what is it that causes us to be weak? And where can we get strength? To understand how we can be stronger and better equipped to live faithfully, we must understand what it is that causes our weakness. Here are some things that the Bible says can cause weakness. Our reliance upon the world and material things can cause us to be weak. Paul said in Galatia 4:9, "*How is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?*" They making themselves slaves to the basic principles of the world again. It was because they turned from God back to the weak, beggarly elements of the world. Our trust in the world, in pleasure, in things of that nature to save us will always make us weak. We see men who put their trust in things other than God, then became weak.

Weakness refers to that aspect of our character or nature where we easily fall or where we easily give in to sin or where we easily compromise to sin. Bible testifies that Moses was the most humble man upon the face of the earth in his day. However, this same Moses was struggling with quite a lot of moral weaknesses in his life. At least, one of these moral weaknesses is very obvious to Bible readers; that is 'anger-weakness'. He disobeyed God by striking the rock twice instead of speaking to the rock for water (NUM20:1-13); for most part, these were actions induced by anger. Moses' anger-induced disobedience offended God so much that, he had to face the consequence of not entering the Promised Land.

Weakness or flaw is common to all flesh. David was upon the roof, and that from the roof he saw Bathsheba. when he saw her, he could not control himself. It ended he committed adultery with her. In these events, we see two sides of David; at one point, he shows strength for forgiveness and was not malicious. At another point, he showed weakness for women. Christians are just like David; they have strengths and weaknesses. Numbers 22 we read about Balaam, and we see him saying, "I will not turn to the right hand or the left. I will do and say only what God said." Yet about ten chapters later he dies in battle against people of God. It is because Balaam gave in to the world (lust of money, pleasures, and desires) and fell away from God. Think about Demas. Paul said, "Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world" (2TI4:10) Think about Ananias and Sapphira. They lied to God out of a lust and desire for worldly goods—and they suffered physically. When we put our trust in things other than God we will grow weak. Love of money is the root of all kind of evil, God is concerned about us being faithful. When we look anyone to save us, we will be weak and disappointed.

Another thing that Scripture says will cause us to be weak is not worshiping God and partaking Lord's supper without giving due attention. "*For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.*" (1CO11:30) They were not meditating cross nor remember His Son's crucified. Not worshiping God regularly and excusably brings weakness. God tells us that worshiping Him is a great source of strength. Romans 1:16 says that God's Gospel is the power unto salvation. We gain strength from praying together as God's people. (HEB4:16;3:12) Bible says there is strength to be gained from singing songs of praise to God, and fellowship with other Christians. "for the joy of the LORD is your strength" (NEH8:10)

Another source of weakness is the fact that some simply have not had time to grow in Christ. Bible says, "Let us go on to perfection" (HEB6:1;5:12) "Though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food." In verse 14 say that those Christians should have had their "senses exercised to discern both good and evil." If people are weak, perhaps it is because they have not decided to get up and grow. In 1 Cor.3:1-4 we see the church in Corinth, which had a multitude of problems. It was that the Christians were still acting like babies (babes in Christ)" They had not grown. We need to grow as Christians. "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2PE3:18) Are we studying our Bibles regularly?

Sometimes we are weak because we allow our fleshly lusts and desires to draw us away. In Matthew 26:41, as Jesus was speaking to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, He said, "*Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*" He knew that they were going to face temptations of the flesh. He knew that the flesh sometimes is weak and needs to be strengthened. Many people in the Bible fell away because of fleshly lusts. What was it that caused the wisest man ever to have lived to fall away from God? It was his lust for his many wives. We read about how they drew him away from God, and how he was not faithful and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God. Solomon's flesh was weak. Maybe we have an addiction or a passion that we have not learned to control. Maybe we have a love for the world and the things in it. Until we let go of such things, fully commit to God, we will be weak.

Another source of weakness discussed in the Scriptures is Satan. In Luke 22:31-32 Jesus said to Simon, "*Simon, Simon, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat, but I prayed for you that your faith will not fail.*" What was it that could cause Simon Peter to fall away? Satan is an active adversary who is trying to cause us to become weak. What he did to Job. He took away all that Job had—all his wealth and all of his livelihood. Ultimately, he took away his health. Satan was the cause. He was trying to get Job to give up on God. Satan was the cause behind Peter's sin. They gave in to the temptation, but Satan was there. Satan might be trying to make each one of us weak. We need to realize that we must resist him steadfastly in the faith. Our trials can make us weak if we do not realize. Peter was weak and stumbled, but because of his sincere repentance, the Lord's help, and the power of the Holy Spirit, he was used mightily by the Lord.

Where is the source of our strength? First and foremost, God must be the major source of our strength. The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken. I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. A foundation of trusting, content, forward-looking perspective is the believer's relationship with Christ.(HEB12:2) Jesus is, therefore, teaching us the doctrine of purging ourselves of all sin causing factors in our lives, which includes our moral weaknesses.

How does a person who is weak spiritually, who is struggling, find the strength to deal with the challenges and difficulties of this life? Paul dealt with the thorn in the flesh that he had in 2 Cor. 12:8-9. He prayed to God three times to ask Him to remove that thorn. Paul felt like that thorn was making him weak. But such was not the case. God said, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness*" The trials and difficulties that we face can make us stronger. If we will use our trials properly, they should not make us weak, but instead should strengthen us in our faith.

"*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*"(PHI4:13) Paul joyfully declares his confidence that God will allow him to endure anything. In the Christian life, we need strength from God to live faithfully every day. The God Who sent His own Son to die for our sins is the major source of our strength. If we are going to find strength, we need to look to God as the source of that strength. If we are going to overcome the world, we must look to Christ. Paul said: *But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me.*"(2TI4:16-17) God knew the struggles that Paul was facing. Christ strengthens us as we live our lives by His Word, which is all powerful. Christ strengthens us as we have "the mind of Christ" Christ strengthens us as we follow His perfect example. If we want strength, we must look to God and to Christ as the sources of our strength.

Another way that we can gain strength is prayer. The prayer is a great source of strength for Christians. "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."(HEB4:16) Where can we find help? How can we get through this life? Jesus taught us that we should go to the throne of God, because He will help.(HEB2:18) Christ is able to aid those who are tempted, since He has suffered just as we have. Thus, prayer should not be counted out as a valuable source of strength. Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat"(LUK 22:31) What did Jesus do to help Peter? He said, "I have prayed for you, that your faith will not fail." Prayer was the source of strength Jesus used in enabling Peter to be everything God wanted him to be.

Another source of strength to which we can turn in times of weakness is the Scriptures. God's Word is able to aid us and make us strong. In Acts 20:32 Paul told the elders in Ephesus, "*So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*" Speaking to those elders who would face great challenges, he commended them to God and the Word of His grace. "The word of God is living and powerful.(HEB4:12)The Word of God is our source of strength. If we find ourselves in a time of weakness, and struggling, we must turn to God in prayer. And turn to His Word to see what God has to say concerning the matter.

Another source of strength that faithful Christians can be a great source of strength for us today. Hebrews 3:12-13 tells us, "Beware, brethren, but exhort one another daily. We are to exhort one another daily. We are to encourage, build up, and lift up one another in the Christian life. In Ecc. 4:9-12, if he has someone there with him, that person can help him. Hebrews 12:12 tells us that we are to "lift up the hands that are failing, and strengthen the knees that are weak."

Our faith also is a source of strength. How is it that we can overcome the world? "This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."(1JO5:4) Our faith is able to overcome the world. It is able to give us strength. If we struggle with loneliness, we need to open the Word of God and realize that God is with us. He has promised to help us and aid us. Just knowing that God is helping us in our struggles lets us realize that we are not alone. There are people who cannot live their daily lives because they are so anxious and worried about what might happen. In Phi. 4:6 we are told, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." We should "cast all our prayers upon the Lord" We should pray to God to ask Him to help us with our problems.

Another major source of discouragement is the problem of sin. If we have trouble in our lives that is related to sin, God's Word can help us with that problem. Sin does indeed bring discouragement. "*The way of the transgressor is hard*"(PRO15:3). But if we deal with sin according to God's Word, we can rid our lives of sin and the discouragement that accompanies it. Heb.8:12, "I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." If we obey the Gospel, God will not hold our sins against us. To overcome the weakness related to sin he must hear God's Word, believe that Jesus is the Son of God, repent of things in his life that are not right, confess Christ's name, and be baptized to wash away sins. Most discouragement and most weakness probably comes because we are trying to hide some sin, or because we aren't really living the way we ought to. God knows that, and we do, too. If you have never obeyed the Gospel, more than anything you need to become a child of God. If you are facing weaknesses in your life because you know that you have sin in your life, and you have not dealt with that sin, you will find no strength until you make it right. When we think about times in our lives when we are weak, cry out to God, "Lord, give me strength," let's do what God says. Let's turn to Him and to His Word through prayer so that we can live our lives according to the will of God.

“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint”(ISA40:29-31) The word rendered 'wait upon' denotes properly to wait, in the sense of expecting. The phrase, 'to wait upon the Lord,' means to wait for his help; that is, to trust in him, to put our hope or confidence in him. It is applicable to those who are in circumstances of danger or want, and who look to him for his mercy. The phrase is applicable to all who feel that they are weak, feeble, guilty, and helpless, and who, in view of this, put their trust in Lord, expecting deliverance through his aid, and salvation is in him. Biblical waiting is not a passive activity, but is demonstrated by active dependence upon and obedience to God. Thus, waiting upon God is a spiritual discipline that we should seek to practice in our lives. The promise or assurance here is general in its nature, and is as applicable to his people. *Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart;*(PSA27:14)

Shall renew their strength - means to change, in the sense of renewing, or causing to revive; to increase, and to restore that which is decayed. It means that the people of God who trust in him shall become strong in faith; able to contend with their spiritual enemies, to gain the victory over their sins, and to discharge aright the duties, and to meet aright the trials of life. God gives them strength, if they seek him. They will soar on wings like eagles - eagle sheds in his old age, cast off its old feathers, and that new feather started forth and renews his feathers, and with them his youth. They shall lift up the wings as eagles; and the image is derived from the fact that the eagle rises on the most vigorous wing of any bird, and ascends apparently further toward the sun. Therefore, denotes strength and energetic of purpose; strong and manly piety; an elevation above the world; communion with God, and a nearness to his throne - as the eagle ascends toward the sun. They shall run and not be weary - This passage, is another mode of expressing the same idea - that they who trust in God would be energetic, elevated, unwearied; that he would sustain and uphold them; and that in his service they would never faint. Strength has been given to bear trial without complaining, to engage in laborious duty without fainting, to pursue the perilous and toilsome journey of life without exhaustion, and to rise above the world in hope and peace.

The path of the righteous entails patience and waiting on the future glory of Christ to be revealed, but also the promise of strength to meet out trials and temptations now, to do righteous acts to honor the Lord who bought us. Those who wait upon the Lord shall not faint, because their strength is renewed. Waiting upon the Lord is like testing in Him while He recharges our batteries. Waiting on God helps us to focus on the purpose, direction for our life according to God's will. It's important to take time to be still before God, falling deeply into Him, so we confidently know God's will. One benefit to waiting on God is that our strength increases because we lean on Him to provide the strength. God wants us to press into his presence and wait patiently before his throne. He's calling us to come before him with thanksgiving even if we're still waiting on a promise. When storms of life come upon us, we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God. God will strengthen us during our time of waiting upon Lord. It's good to wait in silence for Lord's deliverance.

And being assembled together with them, Jesus commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me.* (ACT1:8,4) The word 'power' which is associated with the anointing comes from the word 'dynamo' which means ability. He gives us the power to overcome sin. Speaking in tongues is initial evidence, or sign, of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, is the common experience all celebrate with joy. *“And they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”*(ACT2:4) Later, as Peter was preaching at the house of Cornelius, *"the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message" and they were "speaking in tongues and praising God"*(ACT10:44, 46) Apostle Paul spoke much about the speaking in "other tongues." And he apparently practiced what he preached. He said, *“ I thank my God I speak with tongues more than ye all”*(1CO14:18) When the early believers were filled, they spoke in other tongues, and the same holds true today. When you pray in tongues, your spirit is in direct contact with God, Who is Spirit. One of the purposes of the Holy Spirit is given is to comfort believers. Conform him to the image of Christ, Strengthen him, Spirit's fullness, Quicken him, Sanctify him, Demonstrate God's power. Give him power to witness, to represent Jesus. Spiritual gifts operate only with human availability for the purpose of Prayer to God, Self-edification: Edification means to build or promote spiritual growth. When interpreted they edify the church, Intercession, Sign to unbelievers and Praise. Our inner strength comes from God. He strengthens us "with power through His Spirit in the inner man" He's "able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us"(EPH3:20;16) It is in our inner being that we need strength because our character as Christians is built in our inner being. When our inner being is weak, we are unable to control the outward man from doing evil. Strength comes through the Word of God and prayer. Meekness it is inner strength that's under control. It includes humility, gentleness, quietness as a result of an "in functioned grace of the soul. It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good. God makes sure you have the strength to endure every temptation. He gives you the inner strength to do the right thing. God strengthens us to endure every trial. Christ is our divine Rescuer, Savior, Deliverer. And dark times remind us that we wait, like a bride waits with longing expectation for her wedding day. Christ, our bridegroom is coming, and he has promised to make all things new.