

**11/3/17**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

There are days when I feel strong. There are days when I feel weak. When I wake up after a great night of sleep, am feeling healthy and sunshine greets my day, I feel strong. When I'm tired, feeling sick and a canopy of clouds shuts out every bright beam of the sun, I feel weak.

I realize those lists are a bit simplistic. They don't touch on the ups and downs of relationships, careers, or a huge list of other potential "strong-weak" factors.

But in the most basic and devastating way, we are weak spiritually. We don't do the good things God tells us to do. How many times have we been too weak to share when we had plenty? Too weak to be kind when we saw someone hurting? Too weak to be patient when someone was struggling? How weak we are!

We are also weak because we cave in and do the things our God tells us not to do. How many times have we looked and lusted? How often have we dragged someone's name through the mud? How many times have we rejected God's offer and command to spend time in his Word? How weak we are! We are weak and incapable of doing what pleases God.

How strong! How strong is the LORD. In the Psalm for today, the author tells us: "*The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.*" (Psalm 118:14) God is all-powerful! In his mercy and love, God uses his strength for our benefit. God provides for our daily needs – food, clothing, shelter and many more blessings.

God displayed his love and his strength in an even bigger way. He provided salvation for us. Just a few days ago, we had a beautiful opportunity to study and celebrate God's love and strength in our Easter celebrations. In his strength, Jesus, true God, carried what only he could carry – the punishment of the sins of the whole world. He suffered and died on the

cross. In his strength, he laid down his life and picked it up again as he rose in victorious life on Easter morning. In love, Jesus saved us.

God is strong. He is our strength. Whether the sun shines or hides, or our health soars or tanks, we have strength – the LORD’s strength. Sins forgiven and salvation won, God makes us strong and gives us a reason for singing: “The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”

***Prayer:*** *LORD God, I am weak, but you are strong. Thank you for forgiving my sins and saving me. Thank you for making me your child and giving me heaven as my eternal home. Make my whole life a song of joy and thanks to you for all that you’ve done for me. Amen.*

*(WELS E-Devotion adapted)*

...See you in church.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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