



Devotion for Thursday, June 25, 2020:

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

“Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.”

“For power is made perfect in weakness...” Paul is writing to the church in Corinth and discussing the challenges of being a Christian in a world that doesn’t know what to do with Christians. Persecution certainly happened to Christians. Often out of ignorance, but sometimes out of fear and hatred. Which is exactly how all persecutions happen. The plight of early Christians is no different than any other minority group throughout history.

I say this recognizing that I am not currently part of any sort of minority group. Yes, Christian participation is on the decline, but we are not in the minority. I am a white male, so I have far more privilege than any other category of people. Which makes it difficult for me to understand the idea of power being made perfect in weakness. How does it get perfected in such a way?

Paul seems to be telling the Corinthians that it is humility that is the key to understanding power. When we are humble, our strength is made perfect, because then it will not be used foolishly or without thought. In the challenges of life we are tempered and made strong because we can then appreciate what it means to struggle and will wield whatever influence and power we may have with compassion. Compassions is surely needed these days as we struggle to be patient with one another and with the world around us.

Heavenly God, we are feeling weak and powerless. The world around us seems heavy and too burdensome to bear. Help us to use these struggles to better know what it means to be strong and to better use the strength and power you give us. Let them temper our character and bolster our compassion for your children everywhere. Amen.