

Walk With Scripture - Scripture Lesson

Title: *Strength in Weakness Relying on God's Power*

Focus Scripture:

- **ESV:** 2 Corinthians 12:9 – "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."
 - **NIV:** 2 Corinthians 12:9 – "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."
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Lesson Outline:

Opening Prayer (5 minutes):

Heavenly Father,
We come before You acknowledging our weaknesses and our need for Your strength. As we study Your Word today, help us to recognize that in our weakest moments, Your power is perfected in us. Teach us to rely on You more fully and to find strength in Your grace. We ask for Your presence and guidance as we seek to grow in our faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Introduction to the Topic (5-10 minutes):

As men, we often feel the pressure to appear strong, capable, and self-sufficient. However, the Bible teaches us that true strength comes from relying on God, especially in our moments of weakness. The Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 12:9 that God's grace is sufficient, and His power is made perfect in our weaknesses. This lesson focuses on embracing our limitations and recognizing that it is through our weaknesses that God's strength shines brightest. We will explore how we can find strength by leaning on God and His grace in our daily lives.

Bible Verses for Discussion (20 minutes):

1. Isaiah 40:29-31

- **ESV:** "He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."
- **NIV:** "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 hope in 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."

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2. Philippians 4:13

- **ESV:** "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."
- **NIV:** "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

3. Psalm 73:26

- **ESV:** "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."
- **NIV:** "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

4. Romans 8:26

- **ESV:** "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."
- **NIV:** "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

Discussion Questions (15-20 minutes):

1. Paul teaches that God's power is perfected in our weaknesses (2 Corinthians 12:9). How does this truth challenge the way we think about strength and weakness? How can we embrace our weaknesses rather than hide them?
2. Isaiah 40:29-31 speaks of renewing our strength by waiting on the Lord. What are some practical ways we can wait on God in our moments of exhaustion or weakness? Share an experience where you felt God renew your strength.
3. Romans 8:26 highlights that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. How does knowing the Spirit intercedes for you provide comfort in difficult times? How can you lean more on the Spirit's help in your daily struggles?

Life Application (10 minutes):

When we try to rely on our own strength, we quickly find that we are limited and prone to failure. God calls us to depend on His strength instead. This week, take a moment to reflect on an area of your life where you feel weak or overwhelmed. Rather than trying to handle it on your own, surrender that area to God in prayer and trust in His grace to sustain you. Make a conscious decision to rely on God's strength, not just in the big challenges but also in your everyday life.

Reflection and Encouragement (5-10 minutes):

Reflect on the idea that God's grace is sufficient for you, even in your weakest moments. Embrace the truth that it's okay to have limitations because those are the very places where God's power becomes evident. Take encouragement from the fact that you are never alone in your struggles—the Holy Spirit is with you, helping and strengthening you each step of the way. As you grow in dependence on God, you will find that His strength is more than enough to carry you through every challenge.

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Closing Verse:

- **ESV:** Psalm 46:1 – "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."
 - **NIV:** Psalm 46:1 – "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."
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Closing Prayer (5 minutes):

Lord God,

We thank You for the reminder that Your grace is sufficient for us and that Your power is made perfect in our weakness. Help us to rely on You more fully and to find strength in Your presence. We ask that You guide us in our moments of struggle and remind us that we are never alone, for You are our refuge and strength. May we go forth this week with confidence, knowing that Your power sustains us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Takeaway Challenge:

This week, identify a specific area where you are feeling weak or overwhelmed. Each day, commit to praying for God's strength in that area and trust in His sufficiency. As you surrender your weakness to Him, keep a journal of how you see His power at work in your life.

Online Bible Resources:

- Logos (www.Logos.com)
- Bible by Olive Tree (www.OliveTree.com)
- BibleGateway (www.BibleGateway.com)