

**WCBC SERMON NOTES - APRIL 15, 2018**

**TOPIC:** Understanding Seven Great Bible Paradoxes

Sermon 2: *Gaining Strength Through Weakness!*

**TEXT:** II Corinthians 12:1-10

**INTRO:** Apostle Paul's Weakness!

**WHY IS THERE STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS?**

**I. IT KEEPS US FROM BECOMING PROUD: v.7a**

Note: Paul had all the reasons to be "conceited" because of the "surpassingly great revelations" given to him by God!

"Our weakness keeps us in check. It makes and keeps us humble, and God gets all the glory!

**II. IT BRINGS US DOWN ON OUR KNEES: vv.8-9**

Note: Our sincerest prayers are uttered when we are afflicted by "thorn in the flesh." When we are in desperation!

"Yes, in our weakness we find great strength when we pray!" - Jeremiah 33:3

**III. IT REMINDS US THAT GOD'S GRACE SUSTAINS US DAILY: v.9**

Note: "to torment" in verse 7 is in the present tense!

- 3 Hebrews/Daniel/Elijah!

"God will give grace to support and sustain us especially in times of troubles and difficulties!"

**IV. IT SHOWS US THAT GOD IS ALL WE NEED: v.9 cf. John15:5**

Note: God is all-sufficient. If you have God, then you have everything. He is all you'll ever need!

- The "Wise" vs. The "Foolish!"

"Someone has rightly said, 'With God and me, we are a majority!'" True indeed! - Philippians 4:13

**V. IT CAUSES US TO REJOICE IN GOD: vv.9b-10**

Note: Our weakness can be a time for rejoicing as we experience God's strength through life's "calamities" that mold our character! - Romans 5:3-5

**CONCLUSION:** Blessed & Strengthened In Spite Of Physical Weakness!

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**The One-Armed Judo Champion!**

Sometimes your biggest weakness can become your biggest strength! Take, for example, the story of a 10-year-old boy who decided to study judo despite the fact that he had lost his LEFT ARM in a devastating car accident. The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. The boy was doing well, so he couldn't understand why, after three months of training the master had taught him only one move. "Sensei," the boy finally said, "shouldn't I be learning more moves?" "This is the only move you know, but this is the only move you'll ever need to know," the sensei replied. Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training. Several months later, the sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his opponent became impatient and charged; the boy skillfully used his one move to win the match. Still amazed by his success, the boy was now in the finals. This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out. He was about to stop the match when the sensei intervened. "No," the sensei insisted, "let him continue." Soon after the match resumed, his opponent made a critical mistake: he dropped his guard. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him down. The boy had won the match and the tournament. He was the champion! On the way home, the boy and sensei reviewed every move in each and every match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind. "Sensei, how did I win the tournament with only one move?" "You won for two reasons," the sensei answered. "First, you've almost mastered one of the most difficult throws in all judo. And second, the only known defence for that move is for your opponent to grab your left arm." THE BOY'S BIGGEST WEAKNESS HAD BECOME HIS BIGGEST STRENGTH!" - Rocky Top Talk

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**Verse For Today**

***"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness!" - II Corinthians 12:9***

**Food For Thought**

"God never gives strength for tomorrow, or for the next hour, but only for the strain of the minute!" - Oswald Sanders