

## STRENGTH THROUGH WEAKNESS

The Apostle Paul had a problem. A thorn in his flesh inhibited his natural ability to live his life and serve God as he wished. He prayed for the removal of his limitation, but Jesus had something better in mind, and he told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9). The entire Bible reveals that power is found in weakness for those who know Christ.

The power of God is clearly seen best against the background of human inadequacy. The truth is that our inadequacy may actually prove to be our ultimate qualification in serving God., God exhibited his strength through the weakness of people.

In his mercy God chose to use the weakness in his servant Jehoshaphat to make him into a great leader. God also revealed his strength in the weakness of David in order to defeat Goliath the Philistine. From King Uzziah we learn, contrary to the someone's basic beliefs. We find self-reliance will actually destroy us. From these individuals and others, Our lives acknowledge that weakness is the first step to real strength.

Paul's Visions and His Thorn in the flesh.

2 Corinthians 12:1 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows--such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

3 And I know such a man--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows--

4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

5 Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.

6 For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

In my life I know my body is weak but the spirit is strong.