Strength in Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9 - 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.

Somewhere, deep in the soul of each person, is a reservoir of strength that seems to come to the surface only in times of deep need. Call it what you want, but it seems to be shaped a lot like God Himself, and represents power beyond our abilities or of normal resolve.

There are times when I have touched it, watched it work in me and my circumstances, and yet, I cannot say that I understand it or have any power to produce it. Yet, it is as though, once released, it overwhelms both me and the circumstance. I suppose that means, I believe in miracles.

Sometimes I wonder how I got to this point in my life. I do believe in planning, and have made my own goals and dreams a document I planned to follow. And, to a large degree I have been following the dream in a somewhat straight line. Well, somewhat straight means that it is not without interference, twists and turns and thus is not straight at all. It is headed in the right direction I am assured, but the events along the way are often surprising, both in their dynamic, there severity and their nature.

I know where I am going, I just am not sure what I will encounter along the way. Of course my goals and dreams and my plan for my life, is, I would hope, only a reflection of the eternal plan and purpose of the Eternal Father of creation. He has a purpose, and it is always wise to not work contrary to it, for He does not change and it is always best to flow with the river. Pushing the river will only make you very tired.

It is in those unexpected events and times of surprise that I wonder if I am at all capable of living my life and orchestrating my course. Of course, in a greater sense I know that I am not able, but I also know that in a personal sense that I am responsible for the life I have been given and that I am accountable for what I do with it. Sometimes that seem like a dichotomy in which I have to rely on God for my strength and wisdom, yet I also have to make decisions, follow the principles of the natural laws god has placed in our world and to negotiate the difficult times as best I can.

With great affirmations, I declare my strength against the enemy, then look back to see how God is going to pull this one off. He always does, you know, yet I do not need strength when everything is easy, level and straight. Coasting through the good times is what we would all like to do, avoiding the challenging times altogether. But that is not how it words. I have had my share of pain in this life, and I would like to avoid it from here on out. Not likely! Not likely at all. More than likely, pain will continue to raise its ugly head and I will feel the insecurity of my mortality and be pressed into the resource of God.

It is there, in the depths of the river of trouble, that I am most aware of God’s love and of His abiding care. He has never failed me yet. He has never forsaken me.

Hell surround us all. That is the purpose God has for every one of us – to encounter hell and to dispel its affects from our lives. We are not here for a free ride on the merry-go-round of eternal bliss. We are here as redemptive instruments of God power in a world gone mad. We are here as soldiers to face the adversary at the risk of our own lives and the loss of our own security and ease. We are also destined to discover that we cannot do what we are here on this planet to do without a total and ultimate reliance on God. We are His body and the fruit of His redemption.

We are not guaranteed a soft life. Quite the contrary. We are guaranteed pain and sorrow, difficulty and struggle. It is the inescapable result of our humanity. But we are not alone. We have this hope in Him that for every difficulty there is an adequate supply of His grace. He is sufficient in all things. Believe it. Walk in it! Overcome by it!

Pastor Dave