

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Strength To Surrender

A Heart For Ministry | Part 5 | Philippians 4:13

INTRODUCTION

We all know the feeling of hitting a wall. It might be a limitation in our career, a struggle in a relationship, or a personal weakness we cannot seem to overcome. In these moments, the world tells us to try harder, to dig deeper within ourselves. But what happens when our own strength is not enough? This feeling of being stuck is a universal human experience, but it is not the final word for the believer.

The Christian life offers a radically different perspective, one that is not defined by our personal capacity but by God's limitless power. Scripture does not call us to a life of self-reliance but to one of profound dependence on Christ. When we feel we have reached our end, God reminds us that is precisely where His strength begins. This is not just an encouraging thought; it is a foundational truth of the Kingdom of God, a truth that transforms how we face every challenge and every impossibility.

KEY POINTS

1. Our Strength Is Found in Christ, Not in Ourselves

When the Apostle Paul wrote, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength," he was not boasting in his own ability. He wrote these words from a Roman prison, a place of profound physical limitation. His confidence was not in his circumstances or his personal resilience but in the sufficiency of Christ. This verse is not a promise of worldly success but a declaration of spiritual endurance. Our ability to remain faithful, to love when it is difficult, and to persevere through trials comes from a source outside of ourselves. The first step to living without limits is to recognize that our true strength is found only in our connection to Jesus.

2. God's Power Is Perfected in Our Weakness

Paul pleaded with God to remove a "thorn in his flesh," a persistent source of weakness and suffering. God's answer was not to remove the limitation but to reveal its purpose: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." This turns our worldly understanding of strength on its head. Our weaknesses are not liabilities to be hidden; they are opportunities for God's power to be displayed. When we are weak, He is strong. This allows us to stop striving in our own power and instead rest in His grace, knowing that He is at work not in spite of our limitations, but through them.

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3. Human Impossibility Is God's Opportunity

After telling the rich young ruler to sell all he had, Jesus' disciples asked who then could be saved. Jesus replied, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." The disciples were looking at the situation through human eyes, seeing only insurmountable obstacles. Jesus lifted their gaze to a divine reality. The things that are impossible for us, such as changing a hardened heart or redeeming a broken situation, are the very work God specializes in. Our faith is not measured by the probability of success but by the power of the God we serve. He invites us to bring Him our impossibilities and trust that He can work in ways we could never imagine.

God's Kingdom is not about achieving more by our own effort. It is about surrendering more to His power. The truth of Scripture anchors us in this reality: our strength comes from Christ, our weakness is a stage for His power, and our impossibilities are His opportunities. This is not a call to recklessness, but to a life of steady, humble dependence.

This posture of trust is one of the greatest legacies we can leave for our children and grandchildren. When they see us face our limitations not with frantic striving but with quiet confidence in God, they learn where true strength is found. When they witness us endure suffering by leaning on God's grace, they learn that faith is not for easy times but for all times. Our lives become a testimony that our hope is not in our own abilities but in a personal relationship with a Savior who is powerful, present, and faithful. This is how we pass on a faith that endures, one that points the next generation away from themselves and toward the limitless God we serve.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what specific area of your life have you been relying on your own strength instead of Christ's? What would it look like to consciously depend on Him in that situation this week?
2. How can you reframe a personal weakness or limitation not as a failure, but as an opportunity for God's grace to be displayed in your life and to those around you?
3. Considering the "impossible" situations you face, how can trusting in God's limitless power change the way you pray and the example of faith you set for the next generation?
