

In Your Weakness
Part 3
“God is Your Strength”

Part 1

2 Corinthians 12:9

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. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Part 2

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things —and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him.

Weakness: In need of Strength.

Part 3

2 Corinthians 4

6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

The **treasure** is the *light* of God and the *light of the knowledge of the glory of God*.

This is the greatest **treasure** in all creation!

We have this treasure in earthen vessels: When Paul considers us as **earthen vessels**, he isn't disparaging the body or considering it merely a receptacle for the soul. Instead, Paul simply compares the "value" of God's light and glory and the "value" of what He chose to put His light and glory into. When you compare the two, it isn't hard to be amazed that God has put such a great **treasure** into clay pots.

Who is *worthy* to be a "container" for God's light and glory?

The smartest person isn't smart enough,

the purest person isn't pure enough,

the most spiritual person isn't spiritual enough,

and the most talented person isn't talented enough. We are all like clay pots holding an unspeakable great treasure.

Earthen vessels: Earthenware vessels were common in every home in the ancient world. They were not very durable (compared to metal), and they were useless if broken (glass could be melted down again). "They were thus cheap and of little value." God chose to put His light and glory in *everyday dishes*, not *fine china*.

Do You Remember Samson?

Judges 13

1 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. 2 A certain man of Zorah named Manoah,... had a wife who was childless, unable to give birth.

3 The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, "You are barren and childless, but you are going to become pregnant and give birth to a son.

4 Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean. 5 You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

Vs. 24

The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the **Lord blessed him**, 25 and the **Spirit of the Lord began to stir him**

Ch. 14

He tore a lion apart with his bare hands.

Then

He struck down thirty men, stripped them of everything they had.

Ch. 15

He caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails, 5 lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines.

Then

With the jawbone of a donkey he struck down a thousand Philistines.

When in Gaza He took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

Chapter 16

4 Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.

6 So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued."

Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man."

Then Delilah said to Samson,

He said, "If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man."

Delilah then said to Samson,

“If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I’ll become as weak as any other man.”

Then she said to him,

17 So **he told her everything.** “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.”

- The truth is when God’s strength was on Samson no rope or bow string or loom was strong enough to stop Him.
- God’s strength was greater than any challenge he faced...
- The text says he told her everything... I think it should have said he sold her everything...
- Samson sold the most precious gift
- Samson took for granted the precious gift of God on his life...
- He took for granted that the strength he had was from God...

If you are willing to bargain with the Devil he will sale you a boat load of regret...

Judges 16:18,19

When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistine, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands.

19 After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him...

20 Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!”

He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison.

22 But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

28 Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more,”...

29 Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, 30 Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

Samson to took the Strength God gave him for granted...

He to traded what God had given him for something that brought failure and shame...

Samson’s Strength came from God...

Without God He was as weak as any other man...

Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

2 My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.