

Powerful Prayers, Pt. 4
Take It Away or Strengthen Me
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God's POWER is perfected in weakness, not diminished.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NLT) *"So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

We must choose to trust that God ultimately sees more, knows more and loves us enough to answer according to what we need not what we want.

This is powerful because it moves us to a place of trust and dependence that forces us to depend on God's grace over our preference.

Paul declared: 2 Corinthians 8-9 (NIV) *"Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.'"*

Your current struggle, pain or perceived limitation does not limit God's ability to do something great in and through you.

1. Sometimes God Allows What We Beg Him to Remove

2 Cor. 12:7b (KJV) *"There was given to me."*

Why did God allow the thorn to remain? To Protect from Pride.

2 Cor 12:7 (NLT) *"to keep me from becoming proud."*

2. God's "No" Is Not Rejection

2 Cor 12:8 (NIV) *"Three times I pleaded with the Lord."*

If God does not answer like you want it does not mean He is rejecting you.

Truth: Sometimes, "No" is protecting you. Sometimes "No" is preparing you. Sometimes "No" is positioning you.

Luke 22:42 (NIV) *“Father if you are willing, take this cup from Me’ yet not my will, but Yours be done.”*

3. Grace is Not Weakness, Grace is Strength

2 Cor. 12:9 (NIV) *“My Grace is sufficient for you.”*

Truth: God’s Strength shows up best in our weakness.

Judges 7:2b (NIV) *“In order that Israel may not boast against Me that her own strength saved her.”*

God’s strength on display in your weakness becomes a testimony of what He can do not what you can accomplish.

God is good no matter how good we feel in the moment.

God uses discomfort to develop strength.

4. God Uses “No” to Move Us into His Greater Purpose

A “No” from God is not the end of the story.

Romans 5:3-5 (NLT) *“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.”*

God’s “No” or “Not yet” is often the runway toward purpose.

5. Powerful Prayer Moment

Lord, if You Won’t Remove It, Strengthen Me Through it.

The Prayer is Powerful Because,

- It Surrenders Control
- It Embraces Dependence,
- It Trust’s God’s Wisdom Above Personal Comfort.

Will you choose to trust Him even if the answer is, no?