

## Strengthen Your Weakness

September 29, 2021

### **2 Corinthians 12:7-12 (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the “super-apostles,”<sup>[a]</sup> even though I am nothing. <sup>12</sup> I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles.

### **Mark 9:14-29(NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. <sup>16</sup> “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked. <sup>17</sup> A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. <sup>18</sup> Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.” <sup>19</sup> “You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” <sup>20</sup> So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the

## Strengthen Your Weakness

### September 29, 2021

mouth.<sup>21</sup> Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. <sup>22</sup> "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."<sup>23</sup> "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."<sup>24</sup> Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"<sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."<sup>26</sup> The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead."<sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"<sup>29</sup> He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer.<sup>[a]</sup>"

### **Luke 22:24-34 (NIV)**

<sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. <sup>26</sup> But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. <sup>27</sup> For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. <sup>28</sup> You are those who have stood by me in my trials. <sup>29</sup> And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, <sup>30</sup> so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.<sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."<sup>33</sup> But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."<sup>34</sup> Jesus

Strengthen Your Weakness  
September 29, 2021

answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."