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Bible Paradoxes / Paradox / 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

The Christian who recognizes his weakness is made strong in the Lord.



When We Are Weak, We Can Be Strong Biblical Paradoxes 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

2 Corinthians 12:7–10 ESV

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Unexpected Problems ([2 Cor. 12:7](#))

Strength that knows itself to be strength becomes weakness, but weakness that knows itself to be weakness becomes strength.

James 4:10 *ESV*

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Galatians 6:14 *ESV*

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

1. *Weakness that knows itself to be weakness becomes* _____
2. _____ before the Lord, and he will exalt you

Unanswered Prayers ([2 Cor. 12:8](#))

Romans 8:26–28 *ESV*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

“The purpose of prayer is not to get man’s will done in heaven but to get God’s will done on earth.”

James 4:15 *ESV*

Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

3. [Romans 8:26](#) says, Likewise the _____ helps us in our weakness...
4. If I had cherished _____ in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Unlimited Power ([2 Cor. 12:9](#))

2 Corinthians 3:5–6 ESV

Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Psalm 118:8 ESV

It is better to take refuge in the LORD

than to trust in man.

5. The Bible says... My _____ is sufficient for you

6. [Psalm 118:8](#) It is better to take _____ in the Lord than to _____ in man.

Unbelievable Pleasure ([2 Cor. 12:10](#))

Philippians 3:10 ESV

that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 ESV

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

7. The Bible teaches... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may _____ his sufferings, becoming like him in his death

8. The word translated “rest upon” is related to the word “_____,” and it pictures God’s overshadowing “_____”

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“The churches of Christ greet you”
Rom. 16:16

Hebrews 4:12

THE HOLY BIBLE

2 Tim. 2:15,
3:16-17

HEAR
Rom. 10:17

BELIEVE
Jn. 3:16

REPENT
Lk. 13:3

CONFESS
Rom. 10:9

IMMERSED/ADDED
Acts 2:36-47, 22:16
FORGIVEN/SAVED

FAITHFUL
Rev. 2:10
Remain Saved
Till the end
Phil. 2:12

“See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be immersed?”
Acts 8:36
“water immersion now saves us by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” 1 Pt. 3:21

How Jesus commands us to be forgiven of sins and added to His kingdom.