

My Grace Is Sufficient For You; The Riddle

“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. 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.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 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.” (2nd Corinthians 12:7-10)

What is power? It is the amount of energy that any particular things carry inside it. Cars have power, airplanes and ships have power which is measured by the energy their engines carry. Machines everywhere in factories, offices, and inside homes have power. And all need some sort of energy to work on like the electric, oil, charcoal, sun rays, nuclear, etc. Those machines serve certain purposes or by themselves give another kind of power. In other words they transform the energy they are using to another form of energy or power. But all machines when they get certain defect human tries to repair them and to replace the defected part. But when the process of repair fails to restore that machine to the normal way of work it losses its value, usually thrown away and a new piece is brought instead.

List 1: Where we can find human power? In the amount of well-built muscles. In the degree of man’s intelligence and the reasoning power of his mind. In the healthy body and a life with out sicknesses. In the stable financial state and a life without debts. In the amount of material possessions that human has. In the stable family and healthy marital state. In his good reputation, the high position and the prestige the human live in. In the amount of blessing he received, etc. You may resent and may say we have to put God first on the list. Yes, you are right but when the hammer beat the piece of hot metal or when life squeezes the humankind he fails to look upwards and fails to see what rest at heaven.

List 2: Now this is an easier question, where we can find human weakness? When he is sick or he is carrying a chronic ailment, life-long disabilities, or when he is facing death. When he is ugly, lacks of beauty and is unlovable. When he is in financial need, the time when he is jobless. The time when he is rejected, persecuted and insulted. The time when he is tight and in a real difficulty is the time that he feels he is weak. The time that he cannot sleep, cannot work and cannot cope with the daily need is the time he feels so weak. The time he cannot speak, he cannot write and he cannot sing, he cannot preach is the time he feels he is weak. The time he cannot fast and the time he cannot pray, is the time he feels he is so weak. The time that he cannot control his flesh and falls into temptation by doing sin is also the time he feels very weak. You can add more to this list and I will not say to you ‘No’ to any occasion that you may consider yourself as weak.

A long queue started with power and we ended with weakness. This is how we look to ourselves and that is how we use our resources. God looks to the same queue and He will not alter that arrangement. But he will start from where we ended. He will not start with the human power but He will start using our weaknesses.

Paul is the writer of the aforementioned passage. It is part of his letter to the Corinthians church. Just before that passage, Paul was speaking about himself as a 3rd person. He was speaking about a great revelation given to him by the Lord about inexpressible things. God showed him things in paradise. For Paul, such were blessings God lavished on him, or a power God gave to him. To all of us God gave us privileges, talents, blessings, and we consider all as power causing us to boast and to be conceited. But to keep us away from boasting and to protect us from the conceited state, and in order to break our trust in all what is written on List 1, God allows a thorn in the flesh which is a messenger from Satan to torment us. For Paul that thorn was most likely a sickness as commentaries suggest, and for us it could be the same or it could be anything else in list 2 or anything we lack from list 1. When that happens to us we plead and we pray and we ask the Lord, we want to move from list 2, we want to go to list 1; *‘Prosperity Lord, we ask from you!’* And the Lord answers and will always give the answer, but we have to give ear and hear to what He says, **“My grace is sufficient for you.”**

God is delighted to use the weak things in this world and the weaknesses of men. All what are written in List 2 is God’s essential elements or God’s workshop on humankind. The Lord Jesus Christ’s body was so weak even to carry the cross, but God through this weak body gave salvation to the world. In the same way God can use all what we see and consider as weaknesses in us and in other people who are around us. The moment that we cannot make another step, the moment that we cannot take another breath or sustain another day is the moment that God says, **“For my power is made perfect in weaknesses.”** And this is the riddle of God. Paul heard this from the Lord, and he applied it practically in his life as he said: **“Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ power may rest on me.”**

My Dear and Beloved: The concept of power need to be corrected in the Christian life and what we left at the back we ought to bring in front and offer it pleasantly to be used by the Lord. Let us boast with our empty pockets, ill bodies, hungry stomachs, groaning spirits and imprisonment states. And let us brag with insults, jobless conditions, ugly faces, and rejected states. *For when we are weak, then God makes us strong.* As we pray

My Prayer: *Father God in heaven I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your encouraging words to me. Lord I commit to you all my weaknesses _____.* Today I fully trust you and depending on your grace, that your grace is sufficient to me and your power would made perfect in all my weaknesses. *For when I am weak, then this is the time that I am strong. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*