

She read about my trembling hands, and how my neighbors were encouraged to admit their own weaknesses and to depend on Christ as they saw me learning to do. She wrote, "I laughed and cried as I read your story. I feel deeply encouraged that God can use me, even though I feel weak."

We may think that we attract others to Christ more effectively through our strengths than through our weaknesses. But the Lord used trouble and weakness in the apostle Paul's life to teach him to rely on God's power (2 Corinthians 1:9). He testified, "When I am weak, then I am strong" (12:10).

When Christians act as if they hardly know what weakness is, needy people often think, "I could never be like that." But when Christians admit they experience Christ's strength in their weakness, they proclaim this hope: "The strength Christ gives to me, He can give to you!" Whose strength will you proclaim today—your own, or God's? —Joanie

*God uses weakness to reveal
His great sufficiency;
So if we let Him work through us,
His power we will see. —Sper*

To experience God's strength, we must first admit our weakness.



JANUARY 6, 2019

The Power Of Weakness

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

—Philippians 4:13

I received a letter from a woman who read about the way I had learned to live a life dependent on God. She was challenged as she read that Christ's strength was manifested through my weakness, particularly when I started a Bible study while recovering from a nervous condition.



Insights for Living Through Christ



3:8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 21, 4:1, 8, 11-12, 13
 Three applications from Philippians 4:13 should enable us to have a fullness of Christian experience:

1. Get to know Christ's

_____, 4:13, 3:10, 4:8, 4:6-7
(Ephesians 3:14-16) "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father .. {16} that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,"
(Ephesians 3:20-21) "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, {21} to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

(Colossians 1:11) "strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;"

(Isaiah 41:10) "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

(2 Corinthians 9:8) "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

(Romans 4:20-21) "He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, .. {21} .. being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform."

(Jude 1:24) "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,"

(Isaiah 40:26) "Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing."

(Isaiah 40:12) "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?"

(Colossians 1:17) "And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

(Psalms 103:19) "The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all."



Hologram

2. _____ in Christ, verse 13

(2 Corinthians 12:7-10) "And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, .. {8} Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. {9} And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. {10} Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

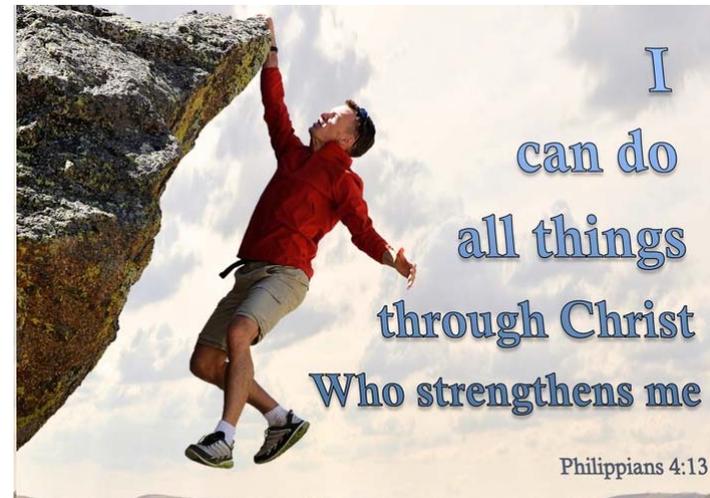


needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

(John 15:1-5) ""I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. {2} "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. .. {4} "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. {5} "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

3. Live _____, verse 13

(Isaiah 40:29-31) "He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. {30} Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, {31} But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint."



Philippians 4:13