

Grace Mail

When I reflect back on my life there are many times that I can remember when my own strength was insufficient for the task at hand. Vivid in my mind is one instance trying to loosen a lug nut. I cranked and cranked on the handle of the tire iron only to have the lug nut laugh at my feeble attempts. My dad comes over, grabs the handle, and with one sharp jerk, the nut comes loose. When our strength is insufficient, we need the strength of others.

Strength In Weakness – Romans 5:6

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

This verse reveals that the Christian life begins with God’s strength. There is no strength, no ability within ourselves to achieve salvation. It has to be a free gift because, if it were not, we would never be saved.

However, this verse has implications beyond the death of Christ for salvation. The word “still” is important. It is in reference to time and therefore refers to “a thing that continues at present”. The idea then, is that we were without strength when Christ died and we remain without strength even now.

Acceptance of Christ does not give strength to the believer. Instead, it gives the believer access to God’s strength through intimacy and relationship with Him! The believer does not possess strength. We merely channel the strength of Christ. Our ability to channel His strength is determined by how much we open ourselves to Him. How do we open ourselves to God’s strength? Through communication with Him in prayer, and in Scripture.

The word “without strength” here is the same word translated “weak” in *Matthew 26:41*. *“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”* Though we come to Christ and have access to His strength we find that our spirit may be willing but our flesh is weak. However, even that weakness can be a blessing as it forces us to depend on the Lord.

What does Jesus tell the disciples to do? Watch and pray. This is where the strength to avoid temptation is going to come from. It isn’t found in trying harder. It only comes through dependence on, and intimacy with the Lord. He uses the weak things to accomplish His will so that all glory, honor, and praise go to Him.

If today we find ourselves much in need of strength, we will find it as we spend much time with Christ. Strength in our weakness comes as we depend on our all-powerful God.