

VICTORY IN WEAKNESS

“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession...”

Weakness is frowned upon, even scoffed at, in our culture. We love powerful athletes, mighty machinery, big bombs, and stories of surpassing strength. The Apostle Paul saw weakness in a different light, though. He sees that the believer in Jesus embraces weakness and is victorious in and through it.

In **2 Corinthians 2:12,13**, Paul went to Troas to preach but was anxious because he did not find Titus there, so he went on to Macedonia. This was because during Paul's second visit to Corinth he had faced strong opposition from the church there. As a result, he retreated to Ephesus and wrote a severe reproach that he sent to the Corinthian church. Titus was then sent by Paul to see how the letter was received in Corinth and they were then planning to meet in Troas where Paul would receive an update. Paul waited with much anxiety (**2 Corinthians 11:28**) for news from Titus. He then went on to Macedonia, where Paul's anxiety increased to the point of being downcast (**2 Corinthians 7:6**). Paul felt the weakness of depression deeply. He was in a place of vulnerability and discouragement.

Recounting this time of trouble, Paul then, somewhat abruptly, launches into one of his greatest statements of triumph, in all of Scripture. He trumpets God's victory in spite of the crippling difficulty that Paul faced. He says,

Believers don't have to pretend to have it all together, we don't need to put on a facade of artificial strength, because Christians, like Paul, are part of the Eternal Emperor's triumphal train. Victory is had in and through our weakness as the power of Christ rests upon us!†

What weakness are you experiencing where you need the victory of Christ?

How has God given you victory in spite of your weakness?

Why is it important that God display His victory in our weakness, rather than because of our strength?

What evidence do you see in your life that you've been “conquered” by Christ?

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