

Weak and Strong Strong and Weak

2 Chronicles 26:14-21

The Lord brought the Apostle Paul into a wonderful place of weakness in order to humble him. God allowed His servant to be afflicted with a painful “thorn in the flesh.” How precious are the lessons God teaches His saints in the fiery furnace of afflictions!

Paul was able to give this delightful testimony: “And He (the Lord) said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for **My strength is made perfect in weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for **when I am weak, then am I strong**” (2 Cor. 12:9-10).

The opposite is also true: **When I am strong, then am I weak!** This is illustrated in the life of King Uzziah of Judah. This king “did that which was right in the sight of the LORD” (2 Chron. 26:4) and God blessed him. “As long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper” (verse 5). He won amazing victories against the Philistines (2 Chron. 26:6-7) and he gained renown among surrounding countries (2 Chron. 26:8). He excelled in building projects and in the management and care of livestock (2 Chron. 26:9-10). He built a massive army of over 310,000 men (2 Chron. 26:12-15).

Then came his downfall: “And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvelously helped, **till he was strong. But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction**” (2 Chron. 26:15-16). His tragic downfall, leprosy and death are recounted in 2 Chronicles 26:16-21.

May God keep us in the place of weakness, dependence, and reliance only upon His power and wisdom. “The arm of flesh will fail us; we dare not trust our own.”

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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