



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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

On the surface, weakness and power appear to be polar opposites. They mix as well as oil and water. But as a child of God, true power can only be known and experienced through weakness. It is reminiscent of Jesus not doing many mighty works in his hometown due to their unbelief. Jesus, the Son of God, was doing amazing works, but those who claimed to know Jesus and his family could not see God's power in him. They were caught up in their limited abilities, their perceived power. They clung to what they knew and could determine through their senses. Jesus was one of them and thus they could only see that little boy they watched grow up.

And weakness can be very unsettling. Not knowing what the outcome of a difficult situation can be unnerving. Feeling out of control is something that steals one's peace. And thus, our natural desire is to try to be in control, to exercise power over a situation. As a church, "power" can come in the form of a healthy bank account or an active membership, favorable standing in the community or a large Sunday school. A church can cling to these things and feel secure and strong, but these are nothing more than a house built on the sand.

True strength is accepting one's weakness and trusting in Jesus. It is building your house on the rock instead of the sand. It is trusting His promises. The apostle Paul was given a reminder of his weakness. We do not know what his "thorn in the side" was, but we do know that in his weakness, Paul was strong, for he relied on the grace of God. It was sufficient for him.

As a church, we are indeed strong, but not because of our abilities, people, talent, ingenuity, creativity, etc. We are strong because this is Christ's Church. As long as we cling to that truth, and not take matters into our own hands, the evil one will never get the upper hand. Know and accept your weakness, and trust Him and His strength. Amen.