

# Our Weakness

March 31, 2010

## **Heb 11:30-40** (Many throughout the Word used out of their weakness)

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, **out of weakness were made strong**, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35 Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented--

38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

## **1 Cor 2:1-5** (Paul understood, and came in weakness...why? Road to Damascus)

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, **did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom** declaring to you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

3 **I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.**

4 **And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

## **2 Cor 12:1-10** (Paul learned to boast only in his infirmities...why? In them he found strength.)

1 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago--whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows--such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

3 And I know such a man--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows--

4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

5 Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself **I will not boast, except in my infirmities.**

6 For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

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.

### **2 Cor 10:1-11** (Paul wasn't so much, in, and of, himself.)

1 Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ--who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.

2 But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

7 Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's.

8 For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed--

9 lest I seem to terrify you by letters.

10 For his letters," they say, "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible."

11 Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present.

### **Ex 4:10-12** (Moses was not confident in himself)

10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

11 So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?"

12 Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

### **Matt 10:16-20** (Jesus tells us not to worry about what to say...it is the Spirit that speaks in us)

16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

17 But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.

18 You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will

be given to you in that hour what you should speak;  
20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

**Luke 21:14-15** (Jesus again, it is from Him that our answer comes)

14 Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer;  
15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.

**2 Cor 3:4-6** (Paul says it is all from God by the Spirit)

4 And we have such trust through Christ toward God.  
5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,  
6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter, (law), but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

**Phil 3:1-11** (Paul had reason to boast in his knowledge of the law; but considered them as loss)

1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.  
2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!  
3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,  
4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:  
5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;  
6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.  
7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.  
8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ  
9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;  
10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,  
11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

**Isa 40:28-31** (Any power, or strength, comes from the Father)

28 Have you not known?  
Have you not heard?  
The everlasting God, the LORD,  
The Creator of the ends of the earth,  
Neither faints nor is weary.  
His understanding is unsearchable.  
29 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.

**Phil 4:12-13** (Paul knew well, both sides of the coin, and knew something we need to know)

12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.