

## Experiencing the Supernatural with no Natural Help

If you want to procure the full benefits a **supernatural life** in Christ, you must get accustomed to living with little or no help in the natural. As I mentioned before, God adds to your natural His “super” so that His mighty deeds of power may be exhibited. But when experiencing the **supernatural life**, the degree to which the ‘natural’ is operating can affect the measure of “super-power” which God is adding. Like everything with God, He desires all the glory. Therefore, when there are less of us (less of those natural abilities we possess), there will be more of Him (more of the supernatural power He is able to add).

We see this principle operating in **2 Corinthians 12:9**... *“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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”* Another translation reads, *“My grace is all you need, for My power is greatest when you are weak.”* The original Greek says, *“...that the power of Christ may dwell upon me.”* Clearly, God’s mighty power is “perfected” in human weaknesses (our natural limitations or frailties), and it’s only when we **recognise** this (boast in it) that Christ’s **power** is able to *dwell upon us* (settle on and remain in us).

For many believers, recognising and accepting their personal failings (the limitations of their human abilities) is a hard pill to swallow. This is mainly because they don’t understand **grace**! When Jesus spoke to Paul He made it clear that His **grace** is more than adequate. And the reason being... His power is “perfected” (comes to its successful conclusion) in human weaknesses. That is why, in verse 10, Paul is able to confess, *“For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

Note, **verse 10** also lists the areas in Paul’s life which the **grace** of God adequately covers ... *“That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, and in difficulties.”* This is everything the natural man is not equipped to cope with! Yet, once Paul got the “revelation” that God’s power is perfected in His natural limitations, he was able to ‘delight’ in all the negative things that may be confronting him. The Amplified says, *“I am well pleased and take pleasure in...”* Can you imagine being ‘well pleased with’ (and ‘taking pleasure in’), all the hardships you are presently experiencing? The natural man cannot comprehend this!

Yet, you can! All you need is the same revelation given to Paul by our Lord Jesus. *“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.”* Your human condition, whatever it may be, is completely and immaculately dealt with by God’s amazing **grace** (His unmerited favour). For that reason alone, His mighty power can come to a ‘successful conclusion’ in your facilities, weaknesses and human limitations. And remember, the supernatural power of God doesn’t need any assistance from your natural abilities. The Almighty God doesn’t need your help! Because all natural things were created by Him, and for Him, and they have their origins in the unseen realm. *“...While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18).*

Every time we expect help ‘from the natural realm’, we are in fact trusting in things that are temporary. Which

means that they have no ability to last, even after we have acquired them. All the more reason for us to steer away from those things which are *seen*, and focus our attention on those things that are not seen (the supernatural realm). *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).*

Back to **2 Corinthians 12:9**... *“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect (**achieves its purpose**) in weakness.”* God’s power has a purpose! It is never random or misguided. When God intervenes with His power, He knows exactly what the outcome is going to be. However, this verse states that God’s power will never manifest if human strength or ability is present. It only achieves it’s *purpose* in **weakness!** Wow! My strength can interfere with the very *purpose* which God has for His strength. It’s not that human strength is greater than God’s strength, but rather, human strength impedes or obstructs the **purpose** of God’s power. And that is, to be perfected in weakness! This is why so many of you experience hardship and suffer defeat. You unwittingly hinder with the power of God in your life. *“...What is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power”* (Ephesians 1:19).

God always uses weakness rather than strength. That is how His power is revealed. All that you have which is strong, is of little value to God, for He will not exalt your strengths and make you proud of your own accomplishments. Your weaknesses and limitations, in all probability, are what the Lord will see fit to use. For He delights to take the frail things and use them to achieve His purposes – that the excellency of the power may be entirely His own. So stop expecting assistance from the *natural*. Your personal strengths (as well as other people’s) can never be involved in the **purpose** that God has for His mighty power. If they were, God would not get all the glory.

**1 Corinthians 1:27-29** states, *“But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the lowly things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.”*

The most powerful section of **2 Corinthians 12:9** is the last phrase... *“Most gladly, therefore, will I boast in weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”* This is indwelling power! Note, the Greek word interpreted “rest” is the same word employed by John, when he says, *“The Word was made flesh and tabernacled (dwelt) among us and we beheld His Glory, the Glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth.”* Quite literally, *“I glory in weaknesses that the power of Christ may tabernacle in me.”* Just as the Shekinah glory dwelt in the tent in the wilderness (beneath the rough badger skins), so we should long to become a weak tent or tabernacle, that the Shekinah glory of Jesus Christ may abide in our souls.

Did you catch the thought here? Isn’t it amazing? First, Paul puts the **power of Christ** in opposition to his own power because if he is not weak, then he has strength of his own (independent of God). If then, whatever he does is done by his own strength, there is no room for Christ’s strength. That is clear, but if his own strength is gone, there is space for the **power of Christ**. When your life is sustained by your own strength (natural abilities), then there is no room for Christ’s strength (resurrection power). However, Paul found that it was not so, therefore, he said, *“I boast in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may*

*tabernacle* (be housed) *in me.*” Do you want the power of Christ to be housed in you? Then glory in your weaknesses!

But what exactly is the power of Christ? Let the text I quoted earlier tell us, “*The glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of **Grace and Truth.***” So what power did Paul expect to tabernacle in him? The power of Grace and the power of Truth! This must be right because the Lord said, ‘*My **grace** is sufficient for you.*’ Note, Paul immediately grabs hold of this promise and cries, “*this is the Truth of God and I will completely rely on it.*” And from that moment, he started to expect that the **grace** of God would cause divine power to *tabernacle* (be housed) in him and shine forth from within his soul – empowering him in his weaknesses! As we acknowledge our weaknesses and frailties, we too must grab hold of this Truth – that God’s grace is sufficient for every situation in life. Yes, His grace is more than sufficient because it causes divine power to shine into areas of impossibility – making all things possible with God!

Whatever you do, don’t fall into the trap whereby your hopes and dreams are dependant on your own strengths and abilities. Whether they be yours or other people’s, they will amount to nothing. In God’s plan and purpose for your life, His power has been commissioned to operate only in your personal frailties, imperfections, limitations and weaknesses. Therefore, never ask the Lord to make you strong in yourselves! Never ask Him to make you anybody or anything, but be content to be nothing and nobody! Next, ask that His **power** may find room in you to dwell, and that all those who come near you may see what God can do with a weak vessel. Sometimes when God tries to honour us in His service, a great “I” stands in the Lord’s way. So remember, He is the only “Great I AM.” In Him we live and move and have our being!