

59: STRONG MEN EVENTUALLY REACH THEIR LIMITS

By John Leavy

In Week 12: Discipleship Under Pressure

3 Min read



“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.” — 2 Corinthians 12:9

Most men spend a lifetime trying to avoid weakness. We work harder, push longer, carry more, and convince ourselves that needing help is a sign of failure. Somewhere along the trail, many of us begin believing that strength means self-sufficiency.

What is often left unsaid is that every strong man eventually reaches a place where his strength is no longer enough. When we climbed some of the fourteen-thousand-foot peaks in Colorado, known as Fourteeners, there were times I had to ask my younger son to carry my pack.

The trail gets steeper. The load gets heavier. The circumstances become larger than experience, discipline, or determination can overcome. It may be a broken relationship, a financial setback, a health challenge, a ministry burden, or a season of uncertainty that refuses to end.

Paul understood that reality. In 2 Corinthians 12:9, after pleading with God to remove his thorn, he received an answer he probably did not expect: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Not exactly what the world believes.

Most of us would prefer relief. God often offers dependence.

The truth is that weakness exposes something strength can hide. It reveals where we have been relying on ourselves rather than on God. The moment we reach the end of our ability is often the moment we finally discover the sufficiency of His.

The trail does not become easier. But we begin walking it differently.

APPLICATION

Many men view limitations as obstacles to overcome. Scripture often presents them as invitations to trust, opportunities to grow in our dependence on Him.

When everything is working, it is easy to credit preparation, talent, experience, or effort. We may acknowledge God, but we quietly rely on ourselves. Then a season arrives where none of those things seems enough. Progress slows. Answers disappear. Strength fades.

That is where many men become discouraged. They interpret weakness as failure.

Paul saw it differently. He learned that weakness created room for God's strength to be displayed. The very thing he wanted removed became the instrument God used to deepen his dependence.

The same principle applies today. The difficult conversation you cannot fix, the burden you cannot carry alone, the challenge that exceeds your ability may be doing a greater work in you than you realize.

God is not always trying to remove the steep section of the trail. Sometimes, He is teaching you how to walk it with Him.

Strong men are often admired for what they can carry. Mature men learn what they were never meant to carry alone.

The goal is not to become weaker. The goal is to become more dependent on the One whose strength never runs out. That is where endurance is built. That is where humility grows. That is where faith becomes real.

LIVE IT OUT

Identify one area where you have been relying primarily on your own strength. Bring it before God this week and ask Him to show you what dependence looks like. Stop viewing weakness as failure. It may be the very place where His strength is preparing to meet you.

PRAY THIS...

“Lord, show me what dependence looks like as I scale the hills life places in my path.”

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Practice builds the man.*

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