



## Scripture Nugget – For when I am weak, then I am strong

*Therefore, that I might not become too elated, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).*

**For when I am weak, then I am strong (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:10).** St Paul was subjected to great persecution on account of his great love for and faith in Christ and indefatigable zeal for God’s Kingdom. Transformed by the grace of God from being a cruel persecutor of the followers of Christ, Paul formerly Saul, became one of the most ardent, zealous and courageous apostles of our Lord. Thus, St Paul was well acquainted with human suffering and weaknesses. He was executed to death, as a martyr for Christ. Before his death, he was betrayed, persecuted, stoned, jailed, beaten, ship wrecked and suffered all kinds of bodily deprivation. Yet, St Paul said courageously: *I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).*

**Our weaknesses are an instrument to glorify God and earn us eternal merits.** As long as we remain in our mortal bodies on earth, we will always naturally experience weaknesses in many aspects, especially spiritually. Most of this stems from our fallen human nature: the concupiscence from the effects of Original Sin. However, even with this less than perfect situation of fallen humankind, God can bring glory to Himself and make us share in it. For every weakness we encounter, Christ’s grace is available to us and sufficient for overcoming it. The greater the weakness, commensurately greater is the grace. God’s mighty power is available to us through His grace operating in and around us. St Paul begged the Lord three times to remove an affliction but the Lord’s response was: *“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”*(cf. 2 Corinthians 12:9). If we do not experience weakness, then we cannot experience the power of God working in us.

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, through Your divine grace, all things work mightily for the good of all who love God (cf. Romans 8:28). Increase our trust in You so that we will remain confident that Your grace is sufficient for us to deal with any difficult life situation or any temptation. Through our human weaknesses, God’s power is manifested in us by the working of His grace. Give us the wisdom to be humble, and not to depend on our human power alone but always to trust God on Whose grace our every breath depends. Though we are fragile and weak like earthen vessels, like St Paul, we can say: “I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me from within.” (cf. Philippians 4:13). Lord, open my eyes to see Your Hand working in my life. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.