



## Wednesday Prayer

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – When I am weak, then I am strong

**“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. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

While I have quoted to others Paul’s verses about God’s grace being sufficient, and I noticed that I even have them underlined in my Bible – I had not underlined nor have I embraced the delighting in weakness section. Who really wants to be insulted, persecuted or have hardships? Hasn’t the past 16 months given us all enough difficulties to last for quite a while?

We’re conditioned to hide our weaknesses – never let them see you sweat, fake it till you make it – are just a couple cliches that come to mind. Our culture certainly doesn’t encourage us to boast about our weaknesses. It’s hard to admit when we need help, when we don’t know something or when we feel powerless.

I often feel uninformed and powerless when I think about those vulnerable to sex trafficking. Looking at the world from my experience during the pandemic, I innocently imagined that sex trafficking data may improve. However, studies indicate that due to greater economic instability and social disruption even more people have become vulnerable to the tactics traffickers use for exploitation.

The pandemic has brought untold afflictions in the world, but God’s grace is still available. God’s grace has been sufficient to meet my every need during the pandemic, even when experiencing loss and loneliness.

God’s power is far and away more capable than our own. We can recognize, and yes, perhaps even delight in our limitations, knowing that God gives us strength. With our prayers, engagement and openness to learn, we can be effective in our work to ensure that all God’s children are safe. When we admit our weaknesses, we affirm God’s strength.

**Lord, we are so very weak, but you are strong. Thank you for being our strength. Let your power rest on us as we continue our work to ensure the protection of the vulnerable. Help us to remember that your grace is always sufficient for our needs. Amen.**

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