



THE PARADOX OF DIVINE STRENGTH

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2026: OUR YEAR OF FRUITFUL LABOUR | 2 Chronicles 15: 7

- A paradox is a statement, situation, or person that appears to contradict itself but, upon closer inspection, may reveal a deeper truth or insight (**2 Corinthians 12:10**). “For when I am weak, then I am strong.” That is a paradox. In God, strength flows through weakness.
- The grace of God supplies strength in our areas of weakness and enables us to do His will (**Philippians 2:12-13**). Scripture teaches that we cannot work anything out unless God first works in us. Both to will and to act are in Him. We cannot be strengthened to act unless He releases His strength into us by His grace.
- Among its various definitions, strength refers to the capacity of an object or substance to withstand great force or pressure. In other words, such a substance or thing is tough, solid, durable, and impregnable.
- It can also refer to the potency or degree of concentration of a drug, chemical, or drink. For example, one might say, “It’s a strong drink.”
- Another definition of strength is that it is a good or beneficial quality or attribute of a person or thing.
- Strength, in summary, is that which confers the ability to produce a result. More strength yields greater results; less strength yields fewer results.
- If we follow the law of first mention (a principle of biblical interpretation which holds that the first occurrence of a word in Scripture provides insight into its meaning), then the first reference to “strength” appears in **Genesis 4:11-12**. The implication is that harvest does not result merely from tilling the ground. Rather, it comes from the ground’s response to the tilling. And that response is contingent upon the strength of the ground.
- The Bible says that if you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small (**Proverbs 24:10**). Most of the situations we face are not difficult to handle, resolve, or solve because they are inherently impossible. Rather, they overwhelm us because we do not have sufficient strength.

The CGCC...A community where we love God, love people; serve God, serve people

- If we receive strength by the grace and mercy of God, the things that once seemed impossible or difficult will give way (**2 Kings 19:3**).

TYPES OF STRENGTH

- **PHYSICAL STRENGTH**
(Joshua 14:11, Psalm 90:10).
 Physical strength sustains the body and can even extend one's productive years. It enables endurance, resilience, and capacity for labour.



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- **NUMERICAL STRENGTH**
(Psalm 33:16-17, 2 Chronicles 14:8-9). This refers to strength in numbers – armies, alliances, or collective force. Yet Scripture reminds us that numerical advantage can fail when it is not anchored in God.

- **FINANCIAL STRENGTH**
(Proverbs 10:15; 18:11, Genesis 47:15). Wealth can function as a defence, like a fortified city. There are challenges that can be resolved simply by the expenditure of money; without it, those same challenges may appear overwhelming. Financial strength is significant – indeed, lives have been lost for lack of resources. Yet, as important as it is, money can fail.

- **COGNITIVE STRENGTH**
(Proverbs 24:5-6, Acts 13:6-7). This includes intelligence, critical thinking, deep insight, perspective, and analytical skill. For believers, developing cognitive capacity is essential. However, even intellectual strength has its limits and can fail.

- **DIVINE STRENGTH**
(Philippians 4:13, Proverbs 8:12-14, 1 Samuel 15:29). Divine

strength flows from the very nature and character of God. This should inspire confidence. When we speak of being strengthened for action – of strength that is divine – we are referring to God's own commitment to empower His people.



PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, thank You for making us restorers of the earth. Restore Your sons and daughters from afar and bring restoration to our homes, families, and communities (**Jeremiah 31:10-17, Isaiah 61:4**).
2. Lord, satisfy and strengthen Your faithful servants; fill them with abundance and joy as they walk in divine authority (**Psalm 92:12-14, Philippians 4:13**).
3. Turn every weakness in our lives into strength. Increase our courage, boldness, and confidence to fulfil our God-given assignments (**2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Joshua 1:9**).
4. Make Your house a place of strength. Strengthen the weak, multiply the faithful, unite the ministry, and elevate everyone in this season (**Psalm 68:35, Ephesians 4:16**).
5. Thank You, Lord, for this year of fruitful labour. Let every challenge produce strength and bring increase, and let Your promises be fulfilled in our lives (**Deuteronomy 28:12-13, Isaiah 55:11**).
6. Remove fear and hesitation from our hearts. Strengthen us to face every assignment with faith, courage, and steadfastness (**Isaiah 41:10, 2 Timothy 1:7**).
7. We declare God as the strength of this house (CGCC), this ministry, and every life connected here. Let all our weaknesses be transformed into divine strength. We declare restoration, increase, and empowerment in Jesus' mighty name! (**Psalm 46:1, Nehemiah 8:10, Philippians 4:13**).