



THE PARADOX OF DIVINE STRENGTH (2) By Pastor Stephen Olusa

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

- Divine strength is given to those who recognise their weakness. **Isaiah 40:27-31** teaches that the weary and faint receive renewed strength from God. Those who think they are self-sufficient may not feel the need for it. Yet, as **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** shows, God's power is perfected in human weakness.
- The fact that God gives you a gift does not automatically shield you from pride. Many start their journey with God full of grace and power, but over time, they begin to see themselves as more than they truly are because of the very gifts God bestowed upon them.
- The word “infirmities” simply means weaknesses, not sickness or disease (**Romans 8:26, KJV**). The Greek word *astheneia*, from *asthenēs*, means without strength or strengthless. This is the sense in which Paul uses it in **2 Corinthians 12**, and it appears similarly in **Mark 14:38**. In essence, the Bible refers to any area of human limitation where strength is lacking.
- Whenever you lack the ability to produce results in a particular area of life, that is a point of weakness. It is precisely in the midst of such limitations, opposition, and challenges that God's strength is released—a truth Paul echoes in line with Old Testament parallels (**Numbers 33:54-56, Ezekiel 28:24**).
- More importantly, the specific weakness is not defined in the passage, which means it applies universally. It may be any opposition, challenge, or resistance to your ministry. In all such situations, God declares that His strength is made perfect.
- Your education can become a weakness, making you feel or be told that you don't qualify. Financial lack limits you, and repeated failures seem inevitable. For some, it is childlessness; for others, a lack of charisma (**2 Corinthians 10:10**). God's weakness is greater than the strength of men. No matter your weakness, it can produce strength and bring forth something precious.

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- The part of your life seen as weak or insignificant is where God's strength will be revealed. Ruth, a Moabitess, was excluded from Israel's covenant people, until the 10th generation. Then, the very reason she had been excluded became the reason she was chosen. At the right time, God needed a Moabite, and she was in the right place to fulfil His plan.
- David was a shepherd boy, overlooked and left in the wilderness, yet he became the shepherd of Israel under God. His small stature, ignored by Goliath and his brothers, became the platform for his testimony (Hebrews 11:32–35). They became valiant, not focusing on their weakness, stepped into the battle, and God's strength was revealed.
- No matter the depth of your weakness or disadvantage, even if it seems dead, the Lord can bring it back to life.
- How is divine strength released? Through grace (Zechariah 4:6–7, Hebrews 10:29; 4:16). God's Word

is the word of His grace (Acts 20:32), the channel through which He pours strength and ability. Grace is given to the humble – those who acknowledge their weaknesses and do not see themselves as all-powerful (2 Corinthians 12:9–10, Acts 15:40; 20:32).



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- The companions of grace are signs that indicate its presence. When you see them, you know it is genuine grace. The first companion is Mercy (**Hebrews 4:16, Ezra 9:7-9**).
- Number two: Righteousness is a companion of grace (**Romans 5:20-21; 6:1-4, Titus 2:11-12**). Number three: Faith (**Ephesians 2:4-8**). By grace, you are saved through faith, a gift of God, not of yourselves (**Romans 12:6**). Genuine grace is always accompanied by faith.
- Another companion: Knowledge (**2 Peter 3:17-18**). Understanding the grace of our Lord Jesus – how He, though rich, became poor – is essential. Without knowledge, grace may be received in vain.
- Another companion: Glory (**2 Corinthians 4:15**).
- **Finally, how do we appropriate these things?**
 - **Identify the grace of God in your life.** The Bible says grace is given to everyone, but in measure; God

does not pour it out limitlessly (**John 4:10-11, 2 Corinthians 8:9**).

- **Recognise how God packages grace.** Sometimes it comes through people: your pastor, ministers, neighbours, even children or household help (**Ephesians 4:7, Matthew 24:14-15, 1 Peter 4:10, 1 Corinthians 15:9-10**).

- When we put our grace to use, the result is establishment.



PRAYER POINTS

1. Lord, release revival in Your church through the outpouring of Your grace.
2. Lord, may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, perfect, establish, strengthen, and set us firmly, even after we have suffered a while (**1 Peter 5:10-11**).
3. Lord, help us identify Your grace in areas of weakness. May we act in faith despite our limitations, and may You establish us in the name of Jesus.