

February 8, 2011

Charles Stanley's Life Principle #4

The awareness of God's presence energizes us for our work.

Reading volunteers will be needed for the following Scriptures. Please take a slip as they are passed around if you would like to volunteer.

- 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
- John 17:13-21
- Philippians 4:10-13

Energized through our Weaknesses (2 Corinthians 12:1-10)

The apostle mentions a "thorn in the flesh." Who was the source of the "thorn in the flesh" (v. 7)?

Why was it given to Paul?

The Lord says, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness*" (v. 9). How does His view of strength and weakness differ from the world's perspective?

In verse 9, why does Paul say that he will boast in his weaknesses?

Do you typically see your weaknesses as opportunities for God to work, or do you try to hide them from Him and others? Why?

"When we are weak in ourselves, then we are strong in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; when we feel that we are weak in ourselves, then we go to Christ, receive strength from Him, and enjoy most the supplies of Divine strength and grace."

Matthew Henry

Jesus' Prayer (John 17:13-21)

Although we usually pray for deliverance from our trials, God often wants to strengthen us to go through them. This is the essence of Jesus' prayer in John 17:15: "*I do not ask You to take [My followers] out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.*"

Is there a time when you felt the Lord's strength in the midst of difficult circumstances? What did you learn in that season that could help you with struggles today?

Philippians 4:10-13

What does Paul express about God's strength in this passage?

Self Application

In order to experience the abundant life God has planned for us, we must come to terms with our human frailty, remain humble, and depend fully on Him.

1. List the areas of life in which you feel strong, confident, and capable of handling most challenges.
2. Do you find it difficult to depend on God in those areas? Why or why not?
3. List the parts of your life that are overwhelming, out of your control, or unchangeable in your own power.
4. What does God want you to do about them?