



Strength in Weakness

2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

- Christians with a Victim Mentality?

Ecc1 9:2–3; Rom 8:18–39; 2 Tim 3:12; 1 Cor 11:23–33

Someone with a victim mentality is always looking for a villain to blame and a situation to suffer from.

Steve Maraboli

If you have a victim mentality, you will see your entire life through a perspective that things constantly happen 'to' you. Victimization is thus a combination of seeing most things in life as negative, beyond your control, and as something you should be given sympathy for experiencing as you 'deserve' better. At its heart, a victim mentality is actually a way to avoid taking any responsibility for yourself or your life. By believing you have no power then you don't have to take action.

Akos Balogh

1) I will never complain; 2) I will keep the home
bright; 3) I will count my blessings; 4) I will try to
turn it to gain.

William Sangster

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- Boasting in Weakness

Luke 5:15; Heb 5:2; 1 Cor 2:3; 2 Cor 10:10; 11:18–21a, 30; 12:9–10, 1–7; 1:3–7; 4:7–18; 2 Tim 2:1–10

It is no mean thing to be chosen of God. God's choice makes chosen men choice men. We are chosen, not in the palace, but in the furnace. In the furnace, beauty is marred, fashion is destroyed, strength is melted, glory is consumed; yet here eternal love reveals its secrets and declares its choice.

Charles Spurgeon

You don't really know Jesus is all you need until
Jesus is all you have.

Tim Keller

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- How Should We Respond to Suffering?
PRAY – 2 Cor 12:8; Luke 22:39–46; Phil 4:6–7
TRUST – 2 Cor 12:9–10

David, a 2-year-old with leukemia, was taken by his mother, Deborah, to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, to see Dr. John Truman who specializes in treating children with cancer and various blood diseases. Dr. Truman's prognosis was devastating: "He has a 50-50 chance." The countless clinic visits, the blood tests, the intravenous drugs, the fear and pain—the mother's ordeal can be almost as bad as the child's because she must stand by, unable to bear the pain herself. ...

David never cried in the waiting room, and although his friends in the clinic had to hurt him and stick needles in him, he hustled in ahead of his mother with a smile, sure of the welcome he always got. When he was three, David had to have a spinal tap, a painful procedure at any age. It was explained to him that, because he was sick, Dr. Truman had to do something to make him better. "If it hurts, remember it's because he loves you," Deborah said. ...

The procedure was horrendous. It took three nurses to hold David still, while he yelled and sobbed and struggled. When it was almost over, the tiny boy, soaked in sweat and tears, looked up at the doctor and gasped, "Thank you, Dr. Tooman, for my hurting."

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TRUST – 2 Cor 12:9–10
LEARN – 2 Cor 12:7; 1:8–11; Jas 1:2–8; Rom 5:3–5; Heb 5:7–9
USE – 2 Cor 4:7–15; Phil 1:29–30
HOPE – 2 Cor 4:16–5:10; Rom 8:18–39