

HOPE *in the*
POWER OF GOD
even when we are weak

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

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7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, **a thorn in the flesh** was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I **pleaded** with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you**, for My strength is made **perfect** in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may **rest** upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**



v7: A Thorn in the flesh was given to me

- “**Thorn**” from a Greek Word:
“**Skolops**” meaning a pointed piece of wood, a pale, a stake
- Impalement
- An Agony
- A stake driven into the flesh
- This thorn was a messenger of Satan



*v8: I **pleaded** with the Lord three times*

“**Pleaded**” from:

- Greek Word “**Parakaleo**”
- Related Word “**Paraclete**”
- One who entreats or intercedes - a description of the Holy Spirit



*v9: My **Grace** is sufficient for you*

*“**Grace**” from Greek Word “**Charis**”*

- Samson’s final victory
- The Salvation of the thief on the Cross



*v9: My Grace is **sufficient** for you*

- What is “**sufficiency**” in God’s terms?
- Philip and the feeding of the 5000 (John 6:5-7)

John 6:5-7

5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” **6** But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.

7 Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.”





v9: My strength is made perfect in weakness

- “**Perfect**” from Greek Word “**Teleo**”
- Does not refer to without limits or without stain
- But refers to completion or accomplishment of mission

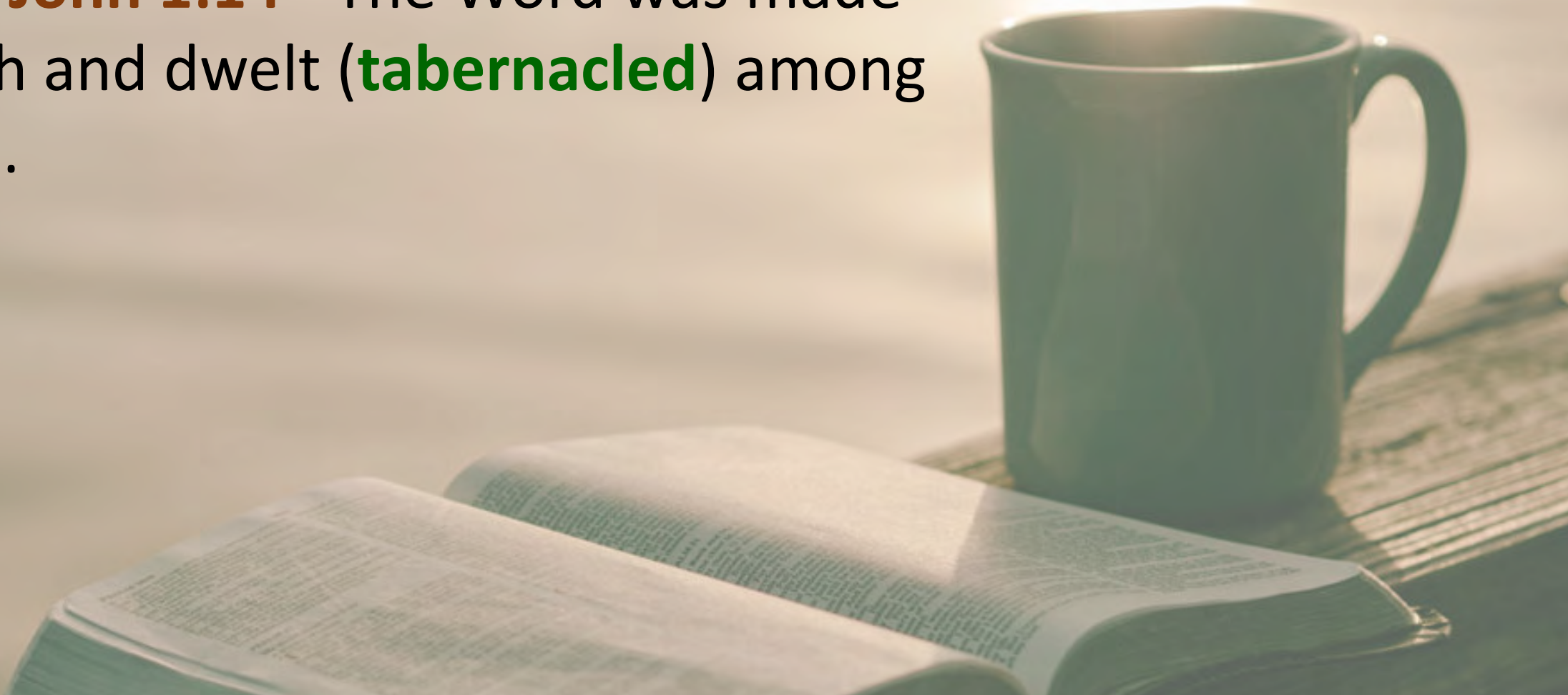


v9: *Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities*

- Many living examples

v9: That the power of Christ may rest upon me

- “**Rest**” from Greek Word: “**Episkenose**”
- See **John 1:14** - The Word was made flesh and dwelt (**tabernacled**) among us ...



Conclusion

v10: *For when I am weak,
then I am strong.*





Conclusion

The Power of God is what God can do with nothings and nobodies.

“My strength is made perfect in weakness”

Conclusion

We are strong when we recognize our weakness.
And weak when we see only our own strength.


- **Luke 18:13** - the repentant tax collector
- **Luke 23:42-43** - the repentant thief on the cross
- **Luke 18:11-12** - the proud Pharisee

Conclusion

Ezekiel 1:28-2:3

28 Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. So when I saw it, **I fell on my face**, and I heard a voice of One speaking.

1 And He said to me, “Son of man, **stand on your feet**, and I will speak to you.” **2** Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me. **3** And He said to me: “Son of man, **I am sending you** to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day.



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