



Strength is both a grace and a choice. It is a gift from God, and it is a pursuit of those who live in fellowship with God. The Bible tells us to be strong in the Lord, and this series will explore how we can receive the gift and make the choice.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick began by reminding us that “No one goes through life never experiencing weakness. But when life gets harder, grace is stronger.” Share one significant time of hardship you’ve endured in your life. How did you experience grace during that season? Follow up: **Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.** What stands out to you the most from Paul’s experience? How does his story encourage you?

2 QUESTION: It is never wrong to long to be strong. Most of the struggles that weaken us are simply the fallout of living in a marred creation (see **Romans 5:12**). Since weakness is a consequence of darkness why should it never be met with passive meekness (see **James 5:13-16**)? Follow up: What are some practical ways we can be more proactive with the struggles we encounter on a daily basis?

3 TENSION: God is strong enough to remove my weakness. Jesus was never intimidated by any encounter with darkness, no matter what form it took. Rick pointed out that *Jesus healed and released... to authenticate his identity, to illustrate his authority, to demonstrate his compassion, to validate someone’s faith, and to stimulate praise to God.* How has Jesus done one of these for you recently? Follow up: What did you learn about God and yourself during this time?

4 TENSION: God is strong enough to redeem my weakness. Believing that God can bring good out of suffering is not the same thing as saying suffering is good. Why is that distinction so important to remember? Follow up: Looking back at **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**,

how did God use an assault by Satan to keep Paul from succumbing to the sin that ruined Satan? Share an example from your life where a similar thing happened to you.

5 God can deliver from weakness, and God can deliver through weakness. **Read Isaiah 40:29 and Philippians 4:13.** How have verses like these given you strength in the midst of weakness? What are some other verses that you’ve leaned into during hard times?

6 ASSERTION: Strength in my weakness is my strongest witness. The testimonies that inspire us the most are not from people who do not know suffering, but from people who know what to do with suffering. Share an example or two of your favorite testimonies. What is one key thing you learned from them?

7 Rick closed by reminding us to Ask God for the strength to turn your weakness into your witness. **Read Hebrews 4:15-16.** Share an example of when you’ve seen or experienced God turn a weakness into a witness. Follow up: Spend some time praying for each other (*that God would give you some extra grace today*).

