

2 Corinthians 8 - 13
September 16 - 22

the
love(d)welling

When I am Weak, Then am I Strong

"Hey, Bud," Dad said as Auggie sauntered into the kitchen. "How did it go?"

"I didn't make the team," Auggie mumbled.

"Aw, I'm sorry to hear that," Dad said.

"I don't get it," Auggie began. "I prayed every day that I would get on the team. Why didn't God answer my prayers?"

"Come sit by me," Dad nodded his head to the empty bar stool next him and Auggie sat down. "See, Auggie, we can pray and pray for something, but that doesn't mean God will answer that prayer. I could pray for one million dollars, but instead, He will give me opportunities to earn money. The apostle Paul was once going through a tough trial and prayed that things could get better. They did not. Instead, God said, 'My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.' Then scriptures went on to say, 'When I am weak, then am I strong.'"

"What does that even mean?" Auggie asked.

"God sees the bigger picture. He knows that giving you what you want wouldn't help you grow or become stronger. It's like when I helped teach you how to ride a bike without training wheels. When we first started, you crashed a few times."

"Yeah because you let go of the bike." Auggie rolled his eyes.

"That's right, I did," Dad said. "It was to help you learn for yourself and grow. And over time, you did learn. And now you love riding your bike! Imagine if I still had to hold onto your bike every time you went for a ride. You would have never learned! God does the same. He knows where you have weaknesses and helps you become stronger in them. So Auggie, what can you do with this situation? How can you become stronger?"

"Well, I guess I could practice everyday on my own. I didn't do that before." Auggie suggested.

"That is a great idea!" Dad nudged Auggie. "Use this trial and grow stronger from it. Become a better player! If you want to make the team next time, you've got to work for it, you can't just pray for it to happen."

"Okay, Dad," Auggie stood up. "I still feel crummy, but I'll remember how I feel now and work hard so I never have to feel this way again."

"Atta boy!" Dad smiled as he gave Auggie a high five.