

needs, *everything*... because through them, it learns humility, and realizes its weakness.

Everything is a grace, because *everything is God's gift!* Whatever be the character of life or its unexpected events—to the heart that loves, *all is well.*

### **SPIRITUAL CURRENCY**

However, after reading something by Father Hans Urs von Balthasar, my eyes were opened a bit, because in reality, none of us want bad things to happen to us. He explained that, what St. Paul and St. Therese became aware of is that, *the currency of spiritual power against devils and evil, is not the painful thing itself, but rather the peaceful acceptance of what God sends to us.*

Every single detail of our lives is orchestrated by God to help bring us to our highest place in Heaven. Therefore, *we need to thank Him for everything.*

St. Therese and St. Faustina said, "God will not abandon those who trust in Him. Suffer willingly, and Christ will reign."

### **THE LIFE OF ST. JOSEPH**

If one reads the wonderful book on *The Life of St. Joseph*, dictated by Jesus to a nun, we come to understand that God allowed Joseph to suffer many things so that he could exercise docility and patience toward God's will, thus acquiring great merits for himself and mankind.

### **AN ANGEL WARNS JOSEPH**

One time, an angel came to St. Joseph in his sleep to tell him that his death was drawing near, and that God would yet try him with a malady that would bring with it most excruciating pains. The angel then encouraged Joseph to be patient and abandoned to the trial, and thus gain merits.

Joseph awoke, and he thanked God for the warning and begged for His assistance during the affliction. Saint Joseph remained strong throughout the trial, and he was greatly rewarded.

When we are weak is when we can be strong for God, and be winners in spiritual battles.    + + + + +

## **WEAKNESS And STRENGTH**



..." Three different times I begged God to make me well again."  
Each time He said, "No. **But I am with you;** that is all that you need.  
*My power shows up best in weak people...*"

" Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am quite happy about  
' the thorn,' and about insults and hardships, persecutions, and  
difficulties, for when I am weak, then I am strong—  
the less I have, the more I depend on Him."  
St. Paul (about his visit to heaven)

## WEAKNESS and STRENGTH

by Dr. Rosalie A. Turton

Something that, perhaps, I have never clearly understood, was what St. Paul meant when he said, "when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10). What Paul is saying sounds like a paradox—a mystery: a statement of deep truth which appears to be an opposition to itself.

How can one be weak and strong at the same time? How can weakness give us strength? How can a thorn in our side, be a source of joy?

And yet, if that is the case for St. Paul, then it probably is also the case for us. Thorns in our side, sicknesses, humiliations, fears, insults, hardships, persecutions, calumnies, sufferings! But, HOW?

St. Paul says, "the weapons with which we fight are not of the flesh, but are truly powerful!" What WEAPONS!

Are the problems mentioned above actually the WEAPONS, or are they instead, BURDENS from which we seek relief?

St. Paul relates that with these weapons, we can tear down the bulwarks, destroy false arguments, and raze to the ground every fortress set up against the knowledge of God. What ARGUMENTS AND FORTRESSES?

He also says that:, it is also true that he was an ordinary, weak human being, but that he did not use human plans and methods to win his battles. Instead he used *God's mighty weapons*.

These weapons can break down every proud argument against God, and every wall that can be built to keep men from finding Him. With these weapons, Paul captured rebels and brought them back to God, and changed them into men whose hearts' desire is *obedience to Christ*.

Paul said he would use these weapons against every rebel who remains after having first used them on himself, in surrendering to Christ.

THE *MIGHTY WEAPONS OF GOD* which Paul spoke of are not the trials, but rather...*Patience, Humility, Confidence, etc.*

### VISIT TO HEAVEN & REVELATIONS

St. Paul goes on to say, I have had visions and revelations from the Lord. Fourteen years ago, I was taken up to Heaven for a visit. I heard things so astounding that they are beyond a man's power to describe or put into words, (and anyway, I am not allowed to tell them to others).

I will say this to you: because of these experiences I had were so tremendous, God was afraid I might be puffed up by them; so I was given a physical condition which has been a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to hurt and bother me, and prick my pride.

Three different times I begged God to make me well again. Each time He said, "No, But *I am with you*; that is all that you need. *My power shows up best in weak people.*"

Now I am glad to boast about how weak I am; I am glad to be a living demonstration of Christ's power, instead of showing off my own power and abilities.

Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am quite happy about 'the thorn,' and about insults and hardships, persecutions, and difficulties, for when I am weak, then I am strong—the less I have, the more I depend on Him.

### EVERYTHING IS A GRACE

St. Therese of Lisieux tells us that everything is a grace. Everything is the direct effect of Our Father's love—difficulties, contradictions, humiliations, all the soul's miseries...its burdens, its