

*"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:9-10*

*"For Christ's sake:" Three simple words that are often spoken in sarcasm; yet these three words may be the key to a good and positive attitude toward life, even when things go wrong.*

*Paul had a thorn in his flesh. There was something painful and weakening in his life that he prayed to go away. He prayed three times for the Lord to remove it, and three times the Lord said, "No, but I will give you grace to make it work for the good." (There was no complaining about God being unfair, no pouting about not getting what he deserved from the Lord, and no asking, "What is wrong with my faith;" only a gracious surrender to God who knows best.) God could get more out of Paul's weakness than his strength. Believing that, he said, "For Christ's sake I will take pleasure in my weakness."*

*I have a pastor friend who is totally blind. Daily life has hurdles for him that most of us will never know. I am sure that there were prayers for healing, and God said a little "no," and a big "yes." This pastor lives in darkness, but glorious light. He sees things that most of us will never see because in our visible strength we stopped looking. Those who know the things that he accomplishes daily for the Lord (as a pastor, and in a jail ministry) can only say, "God's strength has been made perfect in his weakness." There is no complaining, no poor me attitude; just a life well lived for God.*

*If God says, "no," are we willing to say, "yes," for Christ's sake?*

*Grace and Peace, Rev Ray*