

Joshua 1:6 (NLT) - Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them.

Jeremiah 17:8 (NLT) -

*They are like trees planted along a riverbank,
with roots that reach deep into the water.
Such trees are not bothered by the heat
or worried by long months of drought.
Their leaves stay green,
and they never stop producing fruit.*

How is strength (rooting) achieved?

- A deep inner conviction
- Regular disciplines of discipleship, including obedience
- In community
- Practicing Grace

Becoming strong, through the lens of weakness:

- **Psalm 136:23 (NLT)** - He remembered us in our weakness. His faithful love endures forever.
- **2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)** - Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.
- **1 Corinthians 1:25 (NLT)** - This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God’s weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.
- **Romans 8:26 (NLT)** - And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.
- **Hebrews 11:34 (NLT)** - Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight.
- **2 Corinthians 12:10 (NLT)** - That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Study Guide

1. What are the first images that come to mind when you describe someone as ‘strong’?
2. Do those images change at all when the strength is spiritual in nature? How?
3. Take a moment to review the question “how is strength achieved?” from Sunday’s message. Have a look at the four points listed there, and ask the Holy Spirit to assist you in reviewing them.

4. Of all the verses listed and referred to in our de facto study of “weakness”, which spoke most to you? What is the Lord showing you about yourself and more importantly, about Himself?

5. Make these revelations the focus of your personal prayers for the coming week. Carefully and attentively listen to what the Lord is speaking to you about. Don't be in a hurry; slowly and deliberately bring your weakness before the Lord.