



Midweek Meditation



"I can do all things through (Christ) who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13

St. Paul does not say, "I can do all things." He says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Self-reliance is not faith; it's the opposite of faith. Paul could endure imprisonments, beatings, floggings, and much more, not because he toughed it out, but because his reliance was in the Lord and not in himself.

God does not send illness and affliction to us to make us tougher. He sends such trials to weaken us so we rely on Him and not upon ourselves. "When the going gets tough," a football coach once quipped, "the tough get going." Maybe this works in football. But in real life when the going gets tough, God's children are blessed by falling into the pierced hands of their Lord Jesus Christ. He is our strength at all times.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.