

The Source of All Strength

It would have been easy for Paul to boast since he had received divine revelations from the Lord, was caught up to the third heaven, and heard inexpressible words which were not lawful for a man to utter (2 Corinthians 12:4). The apostle Paul speaks about his thorn in the flesh (v. 7) which seems to have been divinely permitted so that Paul would not become conceited over all that God was revealing to him.

The truth is that we don't really know exactly what Paul's thorn in the flesh was, but we think it may have been a type of eye malady as we trace what happened to him in Acts 9:1-9. Some believe that he had an eye condition called chronic myopia. This permanent condition leaves a person extremely near-sighted and can lead to possible blindness. Paul may have appeared to others as having bulging and weeping eyes.

The only other place where his malady is even referred to is possibly Galatians 6:11 which says, "*See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!*" We are not sure that the thorn in the flesh and the reference to Paul's eye issue are even connected. However, if this conclusion is correct, Paul seems to have come to a place where he accepted his weakness and we don't see him whining or complaining about it. Somehow, somehow, he has learned to live with it and function quite well.

Weakness may not just be a physical malady like an eye disease, cancer, a physical handicap, or some other illness. Other fleshly weaknesses may be worry, insecurity, or an inability to trust. The point is that Paul teaches us some valuable things about our fleshly weaknesses throughout his New Testament writings:

Do not despise your weakness, for it leads you to trust in God's strength.

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness of God is stronger than men." 1 Corinthians 1:25

God may not take away your weakness, but He will wrap you in layers of grace so that your weakness is His strength.

"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.'" 2 Corinthians 12:9

You are only as strong as you are weak.

"Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:10

Learning to trust God through your weakness will cause you to rest in the Lord.

In tracing the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, we come to a place in the chapter, (vs. 33-34) where the heroes in the Hall of Faith, through faith alone, "*subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong...*"

When it comes right down to it, it really doesn't matter what I am facing or what my weakness is. When I am walking with Christ and trusting Him through faith, my source of strength is found in my abiding walk with Christ. He will give me what is necessary in whatever situation I may face, and with any weakness I have, He will be more than enough to provide the strength necessary to get me through.

While I may not be able to give you adequate advice on a specific decision you must make, the one thing I know to be true is that God is the source of the believer's strength and His strength is more than sufficient. Call upon your God, the very source of your strength. While we may be tired and weak, it is then that He will surely show Himself strong.

~Pastor Alan Hodak



11201 Parallel Parkway

Kansas City, Ks 66109

www.maywoodchurch.org

(913) 721-2760

April Events:

April 6th: Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 a.m.

April 18th: Ladies Council Meeting 10 am

April 19th: Game Night 7-9 pm

April 25th: Helping Hands of Faith 6:30-8:00 pm

Every Tuesday:

Ladies Bible Study 10 am

Ladies Quilting 1 pm

Every Wednesday:

Prayer Meeting 6 pm

AWANA 6:30-8:00 pm

Every Sunday Night:

Bible Study 5:00 pm

Youth Group 6:30-8:00 pm

Future Events:

May 1st: Fairmont Fair—Awana 6:30 pm

May 11th: Mother's Day Tea 5pm

MISSIONS

City Union is an Evangelical Christian Ministry committed to sharing the gospel and meeting the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of men, women, and children who are poor or homeless.

Since City Union Mission doors first opened in 1924, they have served neighbors throughout Kansas City. Welcoming them in the name of Christ to offer help, healing, and hope.

Services include Men's Ministries, Family Ministries, Youth and Camp Services, Community Assistances (Groceries, clothing, utility assistance, etc.), Vocational Development, Addiction Counseling, and Health Services. This past year 80,579 nights of shelter were provided. 151,615 meals were



“I came here looking for God and I found Him.”

served. 4,120 medical services were provided. 220 people were in their shelters each day. 261 Kids attended camp. 13 guests received vehicles and more importantly, there were 358 decisions for Christ.

Maywood Community Church has supported City Union Mission with Year End Giving for over 20 years.

To find out more about City Union Mission, go to cityunionsmission.org.

Please pray for City Union Mission, their staff, volunteers, and the people they serve.



Greetings Everyone,

Thank you everyone who participated and helped with the many Easter activities. Maywood had a great Good Friday service followed by an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday morning. On Sunday morning, breakfast was provided by the Deacons and Elders which was then followed by the Easter service which included an Easter Cantata. Once again, thank you to everyone who played a part in these activities and thanks to everyone who brought friends and family to these events.

Building Updates

Please attend the April 14 Business meeting which will be held after the Church service. The spruce up committee has made their recommendations and the following will be voted on:

- The shingle color of the roof.
- The material, color, and texture of the Church siding and trim.
- The interior color of the walls for the sanctuary.

Upon approval of these items the materials will be ordered, and construction dates will be scheduled.

We will be asking for volunteers to help in the process, so please be in prayer on what you can do to help.

Upcoming Events

April 19 Game Night – Maywood will have a game night on Friday, April 19. The fun will start at 7pm and go till 9pm. This is a game night for all ages. We will have pickleball, bean bag toss, ping pong, foosball, plus all sorts of board games (bring your favorite board games). Also, we ask that everyone bring their favorite snacks and drinks. There is a rumor we will also have popcorn throughout the night. Look for sign up sheets at the welcome desk in the back of the sanctuary.

April 26-27 Deacon and Elders Retreat – The retreat will be held at Tall Oaks in Linwood Kansas. The Elders and Deacons will focus on training as well as planning for the coming year. It will also be a time of prayer and study.

Please continue to pray for Maywood and the congregation that we stay in the Lords will as we begin the restoration of the Church building. Also, be in prayer for the salvation of those around us.

In Christ's Love,
The Elders



March Financial

Corner:

We were under budget on Expenses for March.

We were over budget on Giving for March.

Youth Group

We had some exciting times in March. We had a March Madness Sweet 16 with Pop Tarts. S'mores was the winner! We also went to RoKC Rock Climbing. We had a few that had never been. It was a fun night.

For our lessons we talked about ways to focus on Christ. How to focus on him and what that entails was backed up through verses in the Bible.

We didn't meet Easter Sunday.