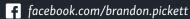
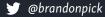


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recently had the privilege to lead worship with Parkway Baptist Church in Moseley, VA. One of the songs we were singing was, "Give Me Faith." One of the sections wouldn't leave my mind from the time I heard it, all through praise team rehearsal, and long afterwards: "I may be weak, but Your Spirit's strong in me. My flesh may fail, my God you never will."

In 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV), Paul shares God's promise—"'My grace is sufficient for you, for



His strength is made perfect in my weakness.

My strength is made perfect in weakness'"—and Paul responds, "Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Something that the Lord keeps showing me is that life is not about my weakness, which is so evident and always there. It's not about trying to cover up my weakness all the time. It's not about trying to work to my strength and minimize my weakness. It's not about trying to muscle up and just get it done. It's not about working harder, longer, or faster. That's what the world tells us. That may even be what your parents taught you. But that's not God's way.

It's about His strength, which is evident and always there. It's about elevating and magnifying His strength, at all times—to live in the reality of His strength—to embrace His strength while acknowledging my weakness. In fact, the more I show and admit my weakness, I realize how much His strength can be seen.

We have been saying for years that You are not alone. And although that means that you are not alone because of the hundreds of churches and thousands of people that

can come alongside and pray for, work with, and support you, it wouldn't mean a thing if the Lord wasn't with us!

As I look back over not just 2022 but the more than 25 years of SBCV, I see how God's presence provided power and protection for mission work, relief ministries, revitalization, church planting, and evangelism. When 800-plus churches can come together, fully reliant on His presence, and in full humility of our own needs and the needs of others, it's amazing what we see God do in and through us. Just read through the recent 2022 Ministry Report to see just a glimpse of what God did in only one year!

His strength is made perfect in my weakness.

What a truth that is! We not only have to acknowledge our weakness, but we also must live in that weakness not hide it or be embarrassed by it. Instead, we need to understand that it's in our weakness where God shows up with His power. So, live simultaneously in your weakness and in His power—and watch His mighty hand move in your life, your church, and your entire community.

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