

# TOTAL DEPENDENCE UPON GOD

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In the beginning, God created man to be well and strong, in spirit, soul, and body. We were made to live by God's power so He could keep us strong—spiritually and physically—He would watch over and protect us. When Adam and Eve listened to Satan's lie and accepted his plan, they separated themselves from God and His power—opening the door for sin, sorrow, sickness, and death to reign over the land.

God, out of His great love and mercy, provided a plan—that through the Atonement sacrifice of His Son on Calvary's Cross, there is a way back to God; and there is a way to be delivered from every evil thing inherited from Adam. If we take advantage of that plan and passage, God's strength, power, and provision will be given to make us strong in spirit, soul, and body—the same as they had in the Garden of Eden.

Many Bible examples reveal the truth of this divine plan, that we can be delivered from weakness, and we can have God's divine strength to take its place—spiritually, physically, and in everything. The apostle Paul said that a messenger of Satan buffeted him. He prayed three times to be delivered from this agent of the devil—to which God said to him in 2 Corinthians 12:9, *"My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."*

The apostle then realized that he had no strength of his own, and could not be victorious by human power, but that he had to put his total

trust and dependence on the divine power of God. In this way he would be as Ephesians 6:10 tells us *"Strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."*

When in Asia, he said 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 *"We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us."*

From a human standpoint, the apostle thought he would die, but this extreme human weakness taught him the valuable lesson to trust not in himself, but on the living God who is ever-loving, willing, and almighty in power. We can't live a day without God empowering us to do everything.

The spiritual light and physical strength that Adam and Eve enjoyed, was because they totally depended on God's divine power. When they became controlled by Satan, they were obsessed with the idea that in their own strength, they could live a righteous life, be strong physically, and have everything else they could desire—without God.

It is not possible for us to depend on two opposite powers at the same time. That being the case, any dependence on self, must be eliminated, and all our trust placed on God. Anyone who truly repents and gives their life to God, will be taught by Him to know how impossible it is to live a right life—spiritually, physically, or in any other area in our own strength.

The root cause of all the trouble in the world, and in every individual life, is this trust on self, or in some other human plan and power instead of trust in God. This self-dependence is what gives Satan permission to do the deadly work he is do-

ing. God, however, will do a perfect work in anyone who will give their life to Him, and remain in that position of trust on His strength.

God will open our eyes to see how weak we are of ourselves, and how strong He is to do anything we need done. Isaiah 40:28-29 *"The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak." (Verse 29) "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength."*

The illustration reveals the difference between those who trust in their own strength and someone who trusts on God. Isaiah 40:30-31, *"Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

The Atonement of Christ not only takes away our sins, sorrows, sicknesses, and any weakness, but also places God's love, mercy, power, and strength with us every moment of our lives. Romans 8:31 *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"* Jesus promised He would be with us until He returned for us—Matthew 28:18, 20 *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."*

The Spirit of God is with us, and His divine power will do anything for us—anything we could need or desire in this life. God promises spiritual light and strength, divine healing, good health, and the ability to do what we should be able to do.

The blood of a lamb on the doors in Egypt, was all that God required for the Israelites to be healed and protected. They received the victory by acting like they were already healed. Exodus 12:11, *"And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on*

*your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So, you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.*" These instructions are for a healthy person—someone who is believing God has healed them.

Psalm 105:37, *"He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes."* Today we are under the Blood of the true Passover Lamb—so we have many times more right to claim, believe and receive good health and strength in spirit, soul, and body—if we will act on the promise as they did. They did not go by how they felt but went by God's Word which said they were well.

Jesus was speaking to a packed house, and the power of God was present to deliver. Four men carried a man who was unable to walk and placed him in front of Jesus. Luke 5:20, *"When he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee."* The Pharisees and teachers questioned what Jesus said—saying no one *"can forgive sins but God alone."*

Jesus then said to the man Luke 5:24, *"I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."* Without waiting to see or feel anything, the man did what Jesus said. Luke 5:25, *"Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God."* The minute he acted on what he believed in his heart, God's health and strength made him strong.

After Jesus ascended, the apostles said to a man who was unable to walk. Acts 3:6-8 *"Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up"—to give him a little encouragement: "and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God."*

There was the man in Lystra *"who was lame from his birth and had never walked."* He

believed what the apostles said—that Jesus Christ bore every infirmity on the Cross, and that God's divine power was present to deliver anyone who believed. The apostle said Acts 14:10, *"Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.*" God's strength was made perfect in the man's weakness.

The large majority of professing Christians and religious teachers have accepted the horrible lie of Satan that God is not the same today, and that these manifestations of divine power were only for Bible times. They believe that God is not willing to do anything like that today. Many people think that is true, and maybe we all may have thought that way at one time—but God's love and mercy, through the enlightenment of His Spirit, has taught us otherwise, because Malachi 3:6 tells us, *"For I am the LORD, I change not."*

Satan has deceived people for centuries—but anyone can have the same manifestations of God's power today, just as they did in the Bible. To receive the same results, we must know a few basic truths on conditions. First, that Jesus Christ paid for our victory on Calvary's Cross. This Atonement gives a purchased right to have God's strength fully restored—in body, mind, and spirit.

The second would be to believe and act accordingly. We cannot say we are believing if we are not acting like we believe it. God is with us and ready to provide any service needed, because He loves us with the same love He has for His only begotten Son. God is just waiting to manifest His divine power for anyone willing to believe, and then act on what they believe.

Third; is to make a final decision to trust on the divine power of God alone—for His strength to be made perfect in our weakness. We are to believe in our heart, that because of the great work of His Son, and according to His Word, we have already received divine strength—without waiting to see or feel anything.

Fourth; to act as soon as we have prayed—as if we were already delivered. Instead of attempting to do anything in our own strength, or in dependence on anything we feel in ourselves, we are to make a conscious decision to depend totally on God and His divine power alone.

When trusting God for victory in body, mind, or spirit, we are not to give any attention to what is seen or felt at the moment; we are not to be influenced by symptoms or feelings of weakness but accepting only the healing that God has promised. We are to act as if we were well, and in full dependence upon the divine power of God alone—just as they did in the Bible. We can then have the same results they did, and the same spiritual blessings that are included.

Acting in a strong and vigorous way, like a person in good health, through Jesus' great work on Calvary's Cross, enables God to perfect our faith; to complete our healing; and to give the victory in all things. James 2:14 *"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"* (Verse 17) *"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*

It yields no results to say we believe God has done something for us, and to not act accordingly. Our spoken faith is valid only when accompanied with actions. In speaking about Abraham, James 2:22 *"You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did."* A well-quoted saying is still true today: Actions speak louder than words.



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