

When life gets HARD!

Five ways God brings **meaning**

Sermon Outline - February 11, 2018

1. Did you grow stronger during the best times or the hard times?
 - “Let me fall if I must fall. The one I become will catch me.” -Baal Shem Tov, Jewish mystical rabbi and founder of Hasidic Judaism (1698-1760)
2. As God brings meaning to our loss and suffering, we take steps forward on the path to recovery, build greater resilience, and take back joy.
 - When life gets hard God brings strength _____ what we thought possible
3. Two “stakes in the ground” for this series:
 - #1
 - #2
4. The promise of God, “Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will _____ you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.”
Isaiah 41:10
 - Because this strength comes from God and is based on _____, it is beyond what we thought possible and it helps us to take steps forward on the path to recovery, build holy resilience, take back joy, and face the future with confident hope.
5. 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 In these verses, what do we learn about God bringing us strength beyond what we thought possible?
 - ***In order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.*** V. 7

- **Three times** I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. V. 8

- ***But the Lord said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, **for my power is made perfect in weakness.**”*** V. 9a

- *Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* Vss. 9b - 10

6. Why can we hope to have this strength beyond what we thought possible? At the Last Supper, Jesus said, “***In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.***” John 16:33b

7. Fork in The Road Illustration

8. **Next Steps:** Continually turn to the Lord. Pray for God’s strength that builds holy resiliency, trust that it will grow in you, recognize it when it happens, and allow yourself to experience joy when this happens.

Prayer for Strength: Gracious Lord God, when my life gets hard, give me your strength that is beyond what I can imagine. When I have trouble in this world, help me to take heart that Jesus has overcome this world. Inspire me to trust that when I am weak, through Jesus you make me strong. I pray in the strong name of Jesus, Amen.