

RUNNING WITH HORSES:

Jer 12: 5 "So, Jeremiah, if you're worn out in this footrace with men, what makes you think you can race against horses? And if you can't keep your wits during times of calm, what's going to happen when troubles break loose like the Jordan in flood? [Mes]

God is warning Jeremiah that his trouble will increase. So, by implication the warning is saying; "brace yourself; find strength somewhere; do something so that you won't be swamped by the things that are still going to happen."

The one thing that stands out between Christianity and other religions is the fact that the Holy Spirit empowers us to keep on going. God doesn't just set a standard and leaves us to sort of figure out for ourselves how we are going to make things work out for us. No, He sends the Holy Spirit.

To keep going we need something inside ourselves that will keep us up-right when we are in danger of falling over. Something like a skeleton in a human body. A back bone. We need to have a backbone.

The word strength/ to be strong means:

- Having power to resist. Power of resistance
- Able to withstand great force/ opposition
- Not easily overcome

If we lack the ability to resist, to stand up against strong forces, it means we are weak. If we are weak how do we get strength?

2 Cor 12: 10 Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am quite content with my weaknesses and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

This verse was a conclusion to his request for the thorn to be removed. The thorn, the thing that caused him great stress and struggle in life, was never removed. God didn't answer his prayer by relieving him. The answer was, 'My grace is enough..' a hard answer. But one that Paul had to accept. Because when we accept our weakness and trust God to fill us up, by FAITH, He will give us grace, like he did for Paul.

2 Cor 13: 4 Although he died on the cross in weakness, he now lives by the mighty power of God. We, too, are weak, but we live in him and have God's power -- the power we use in dealing with you.

The apparent defeat on the cross was actually a great victory for all eternity. Jesus' death, the whole run-up to it, the Gethsemane experience, the Via Dolorosa, Calvary... spoke of weakness. But that led to a great Resurrection, a dynamic breakthrough when least expected.

When we are weak, we have nowhere else to turn. We have exhausted all our options, if we at that point, put all our trust in God by FAITH.

Heb 11: 34 quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight.

Because they trusted God.

Heb 11: 1 What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.

Conclusion:

Do not walk under the false attack of the enemy. Many would have us believe that things will never happen in our lives or in our businesses. Many speak death, using scripture to declare that we