

Boast in Weakness

2 Cor 11:21-30

New
Testament
Reading

"If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness." 2 Corinthians 11:30

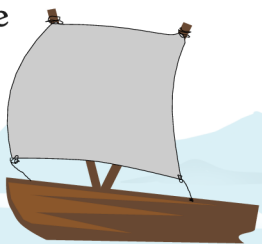
Saint Paul wrote the verse above after listing many hardships that he had gone through. He was not proud of his accomplishments, but of his *weaknesses*.

Can you think of why this might be? It's because, through his weakness, God's strength can be seen! When we struggle, God is always there to hold us up. He performs miracles to heal and rescue. He gives grace to make us strong enough to endure the hard times. And through these things, God's strength can be seen by others and draw them to Himself.



The next time you are having a hard day or struggle in any way or experience persecution of any kind, remember: God is with you and He can use your struggles and weakness for good! Your hardships are not in vain!

Read the following verses to see some of the difficulties that Saint Paul went through and ask him for his prayers the next time you feel weak.

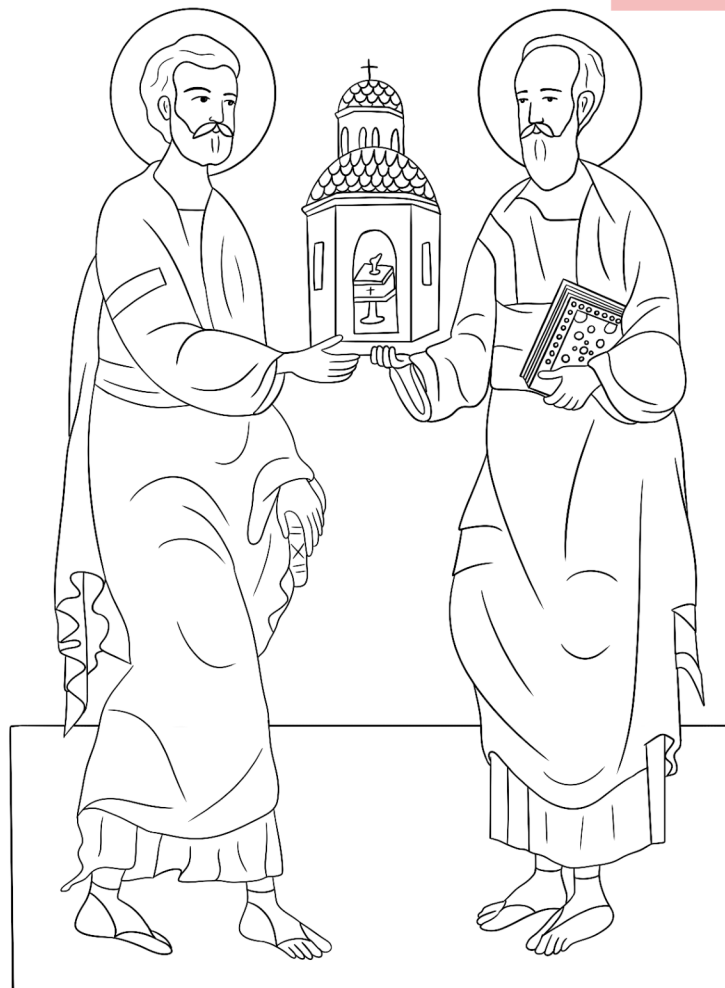


*Five times at the hands of the Jews
I received forty lashes minus one.
Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned,
three times I was shipwrecked, I passed a night and a day
on the deep; on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers,
dangers from robbers, dangers from my own race, dangers
from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness,
dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers;
in toil and hardship, through many sleepless nights,
through hunger and thirst, through frequent fastings,
through cold and exposure.
And apart from these things, there is the daily pressure
upon me of my anxiety for all the churches.
2 Corinthians 11:24-28*



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**Peter and Paul are two strong pillars
upon which the holy Church was built.**





Gospel Corner

Matthew
16:13-20

Toward the end of Jesus's three years of public ministry, he took his Twelve Apostles away on a retreat to Caesarea Philippi. The city of Caesarea Philippi was a pagan city - meaning the people there worshipped false gods. The city sat at the foot of Mount Hermon, a very large historic mountain, and was built against a large rock with an underground spring that emerged from a cave.

The pagan people thought this was the entrance to the underworld, or the "Gates of Hades." Temples and shrines were built to the false gods in the niches of the rock.



What a peculiar place for Jesus to take his Apostles! Then, among these pagan people and pagan images, Jesus asks his Apostles *who the people* think he is, and then *who they* think he is!

Simon, the simple fisherman Jesus renamed Peter, gets the answer right. He tells Jesus that he is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus then appoints Peter the head of the Apostles, the rock upon which he will build his Church. The simple fisherman will one day represent Jesus on earth as the leader of his Church.

Standing at the place in which the pagans believed was the "Gates of Hades," Jesus also told Peter that the gates of the underworld shall not prevail against the Church. Jesus promised to always watch over his Church and nothing would ever be able to destroy it!

Did you know?

IRONY in the BIBLE

Irony is when there is a difference between what is said and what is meant, or between what is expected to happen and what actually occurs.

In the Bible, irony is when something happens that is the exact opposite of what you would normally expect. Often in the Bible, God uses what looks weak, foolish, or like a big mistake to show His great power and love.

What you can do

Ask Saint Paul to pray for you when you are having a hard day or when you feel like your difficulties are too big to handle.

Go to Adoration sometime this week.



Pray for the Pope, the successor of Peter.



Write a Letter

Saints Peter and Paul both wrote books of the New Testament. The books they wrote were originally letters written to groups of people. In honor of their feast day, use the lines below to write a letter to someone you care about.

Dear _____
