

(Human) Weakness and (Divine) Power

I. Introduction & Definition (1st Cor. 2:3,4)

A. Weakness and fear and much trembling.

1. ἀσθένεια ^{#769}: *want of strength, feebleness, sickness* (Rom. 6:19; 8:26; 1st Cor. 2:3; 15:43; 2nd Cor. 11:30; 12:5,9,10; 13:4; Heb. 4:15; 11:34).
2. φόβος ^{#5401}: *fear, reverence* (Acts 2:43; 5:5,11; 2nd Cor. 5:11; 7:1,11; Eph. 5:21; 1st Pet. 1:17; 3:15; 1st Jn. 4:18_{x3}; Jude 23). (concept comes fr. יָרֵא ^{#3372} yare' ^{#3372}).
3. τρόμος ^{#5156}: *trembling* (2nd Cor. 7:15; Eph. 6:5; Phil. 2:12).

B. The Spirit and power.

1. πνεῦμα ^{#4151}: *spirit, breath, wind*.
2. δύναμις ^{#1411}: *strength, power, ability*. (dunamai #1410: *to be able, have power*).

II. Old Testament Development & Application

A. Fear & trembling is the appropriate mental attitude for joyful service (Ps. 2:11).

B. עֲבָדוּ אֶת־יְהוָה בְּיִרְאָה וּגְלוּ בְּרַעְדָּה:

1. Service = worship. עָבַד 'abad ^{#56571}: *to work, serve*.
2. Rejoice = circling around. גָּל giyl ^{#1523}: *to rejoice, exult, be glad*.

III. New Testament Development & Application

A. Human weakness is the manifestation of people under the control and power of their sin nature (Rom. 6:19).

1. Believers in weakness because of carnality need the filling of the Holy Spirit for their Divine power (Rom. 8:26).
2. Believers in weakness because of carnality have a High Priest Who ministers to them as well (Heb. 4:15).
3. Human weakness is symptomatic of human beings dwelling in human bodies (1st Cor. 15:43).
4. Human weakness is motivational for Divine boasting (2nd Cor. 11:30; 12:5).
5. Human weakness is the key to Divine Power being made complete (2nd Cor. 12:9,10).
6. Believers who are Divinely empowered from weakness to might are an example for other believers to follow (Heb. 11:34).

B. The Fear of the Lord.

1. The Fear of the Lord orients believers to the judgment seat of Christ (2nd Cor. 5:10,11; 1st Pet. 1:17).
2. The Fear of the Lord orients believers to personal holiness (2nd Cor. 7:1,11).
3. The Fear of the Lord orients believers to humility towards one another (Eph. 5:21).
4. The Fear of the Lord orients believers to personal evangelism (1st Pet. 3:15; Jude 23).

C. Fear & Trembling.

1. The mental attitude of fear & trembling before God enables believers to extend grace (2nd Cor. 7:15).
2. The mental attitude of fear & trembling before God enables believers to endure mistreatment (Eph. 6:5).
3. The mental attitude of fear & trembling before God enables believers to advance through maturity testing (Phil. 2:12).