(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).
   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. (δυναμαι #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. בִּרְעָדָה׃עִבְדוּוְגִּילוּבְּיִרְאָה אֶת־יְהוָה.
   1. Service = worship. עָבַד 'abad #5657: to work, serve.
   2. Rejoice = circling around. גִּיל 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).

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).