Romans 8:26 (ESV) Likewise <u>the Spirit helps us in our weakness</u>. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (ESV) Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this... But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for MY POWER <u>is made perfect in weakness</u>." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. [10] For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For <u>when I am weak</u>, <u>then I am strong</u>.

****Weakness is not something most of us would pursue. Our culture values the strong, the courageous, those who aggressively pursue their dreams and ambitions. Even in Christian circles there are those who say we should boldly demand that God answer our prayers in the way we want Him to. Oswald Chambers commented on Romans 8:26 in this way:

From: If You Will Ask: Reflections on the Power of Prayer "According to the New Testament, PRAYER is God's answer to our WEAKNESS, not a power we exercise to obtain an answer. (p. 110 O. Chambers)

PRAYER: Lord, God there are so many times that I struggle to be strong, or to work harder to accomplish something for You. Please help me to learn more and more that Your Power is released when I am Trusting only in YOU and not in myself.

Pastor Mark Kieft