

# 2 Corinthians 13:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

## Analysis

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**For though he was crucified through weakness**—Paul grounds his apostolic pattern in Christ's own paradox: apparent astheneia (ἀσθένεια, "weakness") at the cross concealed ultimate power. The phrase **yet he liveth by the power of God** (ek dynameōs theou, ἐκ δυνάμεως θεοῦ) reveals resurrection power emerging from cruciform weakness. This is the pattern of all Christian ministry.

**For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him**—Paul identifies with Christ's weakness, applying the crucifixion-resurrection pattern to apostolic ministry. The future tense **we shall live** (zēsomen, ζήσομεν) points both to coming resurrection and present manifestation of resurrection power **toward you** (eis hymas, εἰς ὑμᾶς)—when Paul arrives, they'll experience this power in discipline. The cross-resurrection dialectic defines all authentic ministry.

## Historical Context

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Roman culture glorified military might and rhetorical power. The cross was Rome's ultimate symbol of shame and weakness—reserved for slaves and insurrectionists. Paul's theology of the cross radically inverted these values, claiming God's power operates precisely through apparent weakness, scandalizing both Jews (demanding signs) and Greeks (seeking wisdom) (1 Cor 1:22-25).

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's 'weakness' at the cross reveal God's power rather than contradict it?
2. In what ways should Christian leaders today embrace 'weakness in him' rather than worldly displays of power?
3. How does resurrection power manifest 'toward' others through our participation in Christ's weakness?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ γὰρ εἴ ἐσταυρώθη ἐκ ἀσθενείας ἀλλὰ ζήσομεθα  
also For though he was crucified by weakness but he liveth  
G2532 G1063 G1487 G4717 G1537 G769 G235 G2198

ἐκ δυνάμεως θεοῦ καὶ γὰρ ἡμεῖς ἀσθενοῦμεν ἐν  
by the power of God also For we are weak in  
G1537 G1411 G2316 G2532 G1063 G2249 G770 G1722

αὐτῷ ἀλλὰ ζήσομεθα σὺν αὐτῷ ἐκ δυνάμεως θεοῦ  
him but he liveth with him by the power of God  
G846 G235 G2198 G4862 G846 G1537 G1411 G2316

εἰς ὑμᾶς  
toward you  
G1519 G5209

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Peter 3:18** (References God): For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

**Romans 6:4** (Parallel theme): Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

**Hebrews 5:7** (Parallel theme): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

**1 Corinthians 2:3** (Parallel theme): And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

**1 Corinthians 15:43** (Parallel theme): It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

**Romans 14:9** (Parallel theme): For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

**John 10:18** (Parallel theme): No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

**Philippians 3:10** (Parallel theme): That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

**Acts 2:36** (Cross): Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

**Romans 1:4** (References God): And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: