

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

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 dynamēōs 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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

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

καὶ	γὰρ	εἰ	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	ὕμᾱς
toward	you
G1519	G5209

Additional Cross-References

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: