



# Shiloh Messenger

May 2024

## *Strength Found In Weakness*

*I thank Him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord... 1 Timothy 1:12*

As followers of Jesus, it's easy to see the culture around us growing increasingly indifferent to the virtues and values we are called to reflect in our lives. Forgiveness, humility, the sanctity of life, loving and praying for our enemies have all become anomalies in the vast landscape of the American kingdom. At first glance, these pillars of our faith seem to be weakening under the weight of a society smitten with self-indulgence, relative truth, consumption and a growing hostility towards Almighty God. Yet, the words of Christ in John's gospel free us out from under the world's heaviness, "*In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world.*" (John 16:33)

The past tense of the phrase "*have overcome*" reinforces our understanding that the battles we endure are already secured in Christ's victory. Considering the fight has been won on our behalf should lend us to turn our carnal arsenals into plowshares (Isaiah 2:4). This is difficult for us to grasp in the throes of disappointment or tragedy. We often look to ourselves, our own strength and wit to overcome hostility, crisis, and inconvenience. However, the Bride of Christ is not meant to carry the scepter but to lean on the One who does. When the culture rears its teeth at the Church, at our families, at our very lives, or even when expectations fall short and injustice prevails, we tend to draw our swords as Peter did in the Garden of Gethsemane and go for the ears! But the sword we are called to wield isn't swung in our physical might or intellectual prowess. Our warfare is waged from a posture of humility and dare I say, weakness.

The Apostle Paul spoke of the *Spiritual* armor we wear. He said the weapons of our warfare are not of this world but *given through God*. He also assured us that we are only clay jars, jagged and brittle, but full of a treasure whose power *belongs to God*. These are humbling truths in the face of a world that tells us to kick back hard against adversity. Recognizing the weakness of our flesh will keep us from responding with our flesh towards a fallen society where getting even and returning evil with evil rules. Humility and kindness shake a bigger stick than striving to prove ourselves right or having the last word. In the letter to the Romans Paul calls it "*heaping burning coals on the head.*" Jesus talked about it this way, "*You have heard it said 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you do not resist the one who is evil. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.*" (Matthew 5:38-39)

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'  
Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weakness that the power of  
Christ may rest upon me." 2 Corinthians 12:9*

How did Jesus overcome the world which He created and whereby He was also rejected and despised? If we strip it down to its bare bones, we are confronted with a riveting and wondrous reality. The late Pastor Tim Keller once put it this way: "Where is Christ's power and strength supremely seen? At the cross, postured in unsurpassed weakness, humility and abandonment." Jesus overcame humanity's greatest adversary through surrender, by laying down and giving Himself away. Through that selfless act of weakness and humility, He was raised with all authority under heaven and ascended as our triumphant Lord and King. Let us pray the Holy Spirit empowers us to boast in our weakness that we may perpetually be found in the likeness of our Savior as a witness to those who've yet to meet Him.

Like most children, I wanted to be like everyone else. I took everything in my life for granted and always focused on what I didn't have. The world at large told me it was important to be admired and respected by others. Selling drugs would not only help me gain respect and notoriety, but I would also get rich quick. It seemed harmless. But the excitement, relationships and the thrill of that lifestyle quickly came undone, and my life began to spiral. The external validation I had sought proved harder and harder to find while shame, embarrassment and fear became the driving forces of my life. As the years rolled by, I was in and out of jail and constantly trying to prove to everyone I wasn't completely worthless. After a couple of decades fighting that battle, I finally quit trying. Self-loathing took hold of me when I eventually lost custody of my son and I went into a self-imposed exile, isolating myself from everyone I knew. I intended to remain in that isolation until death. Little did I know at that time, it was exactly what I needed. Feeling completely dead inside, tired of hurting those around me, and suffocating in despair, I had no choice but to cry out to God. "If you are real, take care of my son. Either kill me or use me to show others the error of my ways so they won't have to suffer as I have." Shortly after this time I was arrested again and on my way to court. This time however, I stood before a judge who was very familiar with Shiloh Ministries and had seen lives changed through what God was doing there. It's easy to look back and see God working in those times but it hasn't been an easy road. My journey here at Shiloh, my search for understanding, my desperate reaching for God has been a painful reality check. The lies I'd believed about myself, the world and even God have run their course. I can now see that there is joy to be found on the other side of my pain by clawing the muck of my life back and finding Him on the other side. I've learned that my life is not a futile endeavor any longer because I have a purpose. In God, we are valuable members of a family who teach one another, encourage one another, and because He first loved us, we love one another. The Bible teaches that we overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. Little did I know when I reached out and asked God to use me, that I was already taking the first step in obedience to His Word. Jesus is not just called the Author, but also the Finisher of our faith. I now have confidence that He has brought me this far and will complete what he's started. There maybe some unanswered questions regarding my journey after my Shiloh adventure, but one thing is certain: My God fights for me!



***Shiloh Ministries is one of The Lord's many Ministry tools to reconcile men for restoration. We are blessed to be used of Him to preach the un-searchable riches that are in Christ Jesus (Eph. 3:8). Everyday we are hearing such wonderful testimonies of our Graduates pursuing their calling of a Godly husband, father, missionary, Staff person at local Churches and a minister of reconciliation in the work place. We are asking that you prayerfully consider financially supporting Shiloh Ministries every month. The Lord's ministry at Shiloh has always been financially free for the man who desires freedom from his addictions. Because of this, we simply trust The Holy Spirit to lead people to give financially. This ministry is grateful to those who express gratitude to God by co-laboring with us in discipleship. The expenditures are huge managing a campus that houses over 30 students, staff & interns. Please prayerfully consider Shiloh Ministries every month as good ground for your financial seed. We invite you to visit our web-site and read our Testimony section. It bares witness of our graduates fruit that is on display, for The Glory of God. Thanks for your giving to The Lord's Ministry at Shiloh!***



*LORD of the Harvest (Wheat & Weed's),  
Matt. 9:38*

**CONTACT US AT:**

**SHILOH MINISTRIES,**

**PO BOX 10226,**

**LIBERTY, TX 77575**

**PHONE: #936.334.8616,**

**E-MAIL: SHILOHLIBERTYTX@GMAIL.COM**  
**VISIT US ON THE WEB FOR INFORMATION**  
**ABOUT US & TO GIVE FINANCIALLY ON**  
**LINE AT:**

**WWW.SHILOHMENSMINISTRIES.COM**

**VIEW OUR SERMONS ON YOUTUBE**

**SHILOH CHURCH & MINISTRIES LIBERTY TX.**