



Week 2, Day 4:

READINGS:

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

1 Peter 4:12-13 (NLT)

Often in the face of weakness, we hide, or we lie. Mark told us that embracing our inability is a prerequisite to experiencing Christ's ability. When we embrace difficulty as a gift, we can experience Christ's power come over us and help us through our trials. Paul went so far as to say that he delights in weakness and hardship because he discovers Christ's strength. In a difficult season, we each have the option to focus on our difficulty or focus on the strength of God. Take a minute and think about God's promise of a purpose and God's promise of strength in your place of weakness.

TAKE ACTION: The famous missionary Elisabeth Elliot has a saying, "In acceptance lies peace." Write out a prayer to God asking Him to help you accept the difficulties that have come into your life.