



Letters About Weakness

2 Corinthians 4:4-6, 16-18; 12:7-10

"Hi, campers! Welcome back to the Mail Center!" Safari Sam called, as he entered through the side door. He was pushing Ranger Reggie in a wheelchair. "Ranger Reggie is still feeling dizzy from being attacked by that racehorse," he explained, as he wheeled the wheelchair behind the counter.

"I'm fine, Safari Sam," Ranger Reggie insisted.

Safari Sam studied the bandages wrapped around the ranger's head. "You need to take it slow, Ranger Reggie."

Ranger Reggie rolled his eyes. "I know, I know. Rest, relax, and recuperate. But really, I feel okay."

Safari Sam frowned. "Still, I worry about you. You're in a weakened condition."

"Thanks for caring, my friend, but I think I'll be all right," Ranger Reggie assured him.

"Well, let's see what the Bible has to say about that! It's Mail Time!" Safari Sam announced. The campers cheered as he removed the Bible from the mailbag. "Here's Paul's second letter to the Corinthians!" He began to read, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made His light shine in our hearts . . . but we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." Safari Sam stopped reading and looked at Ranger Reggie. "What does that mean?"

"It means we are weak, like a breakable clay jar, but God put His light in our hearts so everyone would see He is the one with the power, not us," Ranger Reggie explained.

Safari Sam's eyes lit up. "God is showing His power through us! That's good news!"

"Right! Let me see that Bible and I'll show you some more good news!" Ranger Reggie instructed. Safari Sam gave him the Bible and Ranger Reggie began to read, "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

Safari Sam nodded in understanding. "So, no matter how weak we feel on the outside . . ."

"He is making us stronger on the inside!" Ranger Reggie finished.

"So, our faith in God makes us strong even if we get smacked in the head by a wild horse?" Safari Sam laughed.

Ranger Reggie groaned. "Did you have to bring that up?"

"Wow, I never realized weakness can be a good thing," Safari Sam noted.

"It's not that anybody wishes to be weak, but there are times in all our lives when we realize we just can't do everything on our own," Ranger Reggie said.

"It's those times when we learn to lean on Jesus and let His light shine through us," Safari Sam stated.

Ranger Reggie grinned. "Absolutely!"

"I'll bet today's Creature Feature is a symbol of weakness!" Safari Sam guessed.

"Well, there's only one way find out!" Ranger Reggie answered. "It's time for our Creature Feature!"

"Wild William," Safari Sam called out, "who is today's featured creature?"

Wild William stood up from a seat in the far corner of the Mail Center. The campers jumped in surprise. No one had seen him there! "Cute and cuddly, soft as silk, fill her saucer up with milk." He quickly slipped out the nearest door.

"What do you think it is, kids?" Ranger Reggie asked the campers.

"A kitten!" they yelled in reply.

Ranger Reggie nodded. "I think you're right! I think it is a kitten!"

Wild William appeared again. This time, he was next to the counter, holding a kitten.

Safari Sam took the kitten and rubbed her ears. The kitten cuddled up in his arms and purred. "Ranger Reggie, after last week's incident, I don't think you should be around any dangerous critters!"

"Oh Safari Sam, please!" Ranger Reggie scowled. "There's nothing weaker than a tiny little kitten! Bring her here!"

Safari Sam gave him the kitten and watched as she curled up on his lap. "Look at that, she likes you!"

"Of course, she does!" Ranger Reggie held the kitten up to his face. "You're just a pretty little kitty, aren't you?"

"Yaowwl!" she screeched. Her claws slashed at his face and shirt.

"Owww!" Ranger Reggie yelled in pain. "Whoa! Help!"

**"Scat, cat!" Safari Sam grabbed the screeching kitten and handed her to Wild William.
"Ranger Reggie! I knew you were too weak to handle her!"**

Wild William took the kitten, grinned, and walked out the door without another word.

"That cat is part mountain lion!" Ranger Reggie exclaimed, while looking at the rip the kitten's claws had made in his shirt.

"Should I get the first aid kit?" Safari Sam offered.

Ranger Reggie shook his head. "It's just a scratch . . . or ten. Don't worry. God is stronger than my weakness."

"Who told you that?" Safari Sam asked.

"Orville," Ranger Reggie replied. "Hey campers, why don't we call him? Are you ready?"

"Hey Orville, come on down!" the counselors and campers called out. Orville swooped down and dropped a message egg into Ranger Reggie's lap.

Ranger Reggie gave it to Safari Sam. "Would you read the message to us?"

Safari Sam opened the egg and read, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me . . . For when I am weak, then I am strong." He looked up and exclaimed, "So, when your body is weak, that's when God's power shows the most!"

"Amen!" Ranger Reggie confirmed. "God's power is something we can really brag about! It's good to remember that in our weakness, His light in us shines really bright. That reminds me of our Camper's Code."

Ranger Reggie struggled to stand. "On your feet, campers! Raise your right hand and recite it with me!"

Together, they said, "I will love God with all my heart. I will love my neighbor as myself. I will be a light wherever I go!"

Reggie smiled and added, "It's easy to be a light, when God's power shines through you!"