

Series: Habits for a Fruitful Life: A Study of the Book of Colossians
Title: **Depend on Christ's strength, not your own**
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Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body, that is, the church. I have become its servant, according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me. For I want you to know how greatly I am struggling for you, for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me in person. I want their hearts to be encouraged and joined together in love, so that they may have all the riches of complete understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery—Christ. In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 1:24-2:3)

Be weak in yourself, strong in your Savior.

The gift of suffering

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body, that is, the church. (Colossians 1:24)

The gift of striving

I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me. (Colossians 1:29)

The gift of serving

I have become its [the church's] servant... (Colossians 1:25)

Reflection Question:

Where is God leading you to be a "contributor" and serve others?