

“Therefore I take **pleasure** in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor. 12:10).

Did Worse When They Did Better

- Israelites (Deut. 8:3, 11–14)
 - King Rehoboam (2 Chron. 11:1–4, 17; 12:1).
 - King Uzziah (2 Chron. 26:3–5, 14–16)
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Did Better When They Did Worse

- Israelites (Judges)
 - David (1 Samuel 30:1–6).
 - Paul (2 Cor. 1:8–11; 12:7–10)
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Lessons

- We better learn how to abound.
 - What humbles us can't be altogether bad.
 - “Weakness” magnifies the Lord's strength.
 - More sympathetic, compassionate.
 - Realize the importance of others.
 - Even tough times spiritually can make us stronger.
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