When we are healthy, everything is well, and we have no physical limitations. It is easy to say I can do this, or I will do that. But what happens when our health is being affected? We feel weak; everything takes a little more effort to accomplish. What happens when everything hurts or when you are tired of the pain? We feel desperate and would do anything to feel better and make the weakness go away. But what if I told you that it is possible to appreciate weakness, to appreciate the fact pain helps us acknowledge that we have the gift to feel and be sensitive. What if I told you that being weak takes us to a position where we are just one thorn away from experiencing God's power.

In the Bible we find this man named Paul, a servant of God, who had a thorn in his flesh which made him weak and even though it was a tough situation, he soon learned to appreciate it.

“\textit{My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.} Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.”
\textit{(2Corinthians 12:9 NIV)}

The word weakness used in this context is the Greek word “\textit{Astheneia}” which is equivalent to sickness or disease. Even though weakness can be present in your body, we acknowledge that we also go through emotional and spiritual pain. This pain makes us feel incapable, frustrated, or disappointed. It makes us suffer and we want God to take away what is making us weak. Instead he wants us to come closer and rest in the fact that even with that weakness in our life, we will be able to overcome by His power and grace.

We ask ourselves "why me?" Why you? Because God wants to show YOU something greater, something you have not experienced before. Open your eyes and see how your weakness becomes nothing before the overwhelming power of Christ. We often need to renew or change our perspective on what weakness is all about. Would you rather have God take that thorn away from you and stay the same, or would you like to be the recipient of God's fresh strength and have a profound revelation of His grace?

Maybe you are suffering a medical condition. Maybe you are being rejected by your loved ones. Maybe you are just tired of trying to overcome your addiction on your own. Maybe you just want to hide the weakness or avoid it. But weakness makes us humble. God is near the humble heart. Weakness is not a disadvantage; weakness is an opportunity to be strong in Christ. Our vulnerability allows God to show his power. When we are weak, we depend on God on a deeper level. That level in which we humanly are incapable of overcoming but only by the power of God. When we are weak, we start noticing how much we need God. We stop depending on our abilities and start trusting His power and the gift of His grace.

Grace is something we do not deserve; something we would never be able to obtain with our abilities. It's okay to be weak as long as you depend on God. Sometimes when we are weak, we want to depend on other people and it's okay to have support from our friends, family, and church. But whether we have many people supporting us or even if we are alone, we must depend totally on God.

Today I am not telling you “Don't give up”. Today I want to tell you: “yes, give up” Give up your weakness. Give up that situation. Give up whatever you cannot do, whatever you don't have control of, and even when you are an expert, give it up to God in humble surrender. Give up your self-sufficiency. Give up your own ways; give up your pride; give up your ordinary. We are only to give up for Jesus, nothing else. In the weakness, we become humble; we rely and depend on God with more intensity.

Pray: Ignite, oh God, your power in me. Even in the desperation, may I give up my weaknesses but never give up seeking you. I pray this with a humble heart, in the name of Jesus. Amen