

## PATHETIC CHRISTIANS AND A POWERFUL CHRIST

Revelation 3:7–13

Christianity asserts a number of seemingly counterintuitive truths. For example, wealth comes through poverty, maturity through childlikeness, exaltation by submission, life via death, glory by suffering, and freedom through enslavement.\* Truths like these are difficult for us to grasp because our sinful nature screams rebellion and our ignorant world preaches their opposites. Another such reality is presented throughout Scripture promising peace, joy, purpose, influence, protection, and blessing, and summarized by the apostle Paul: “When I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor 12:10). Counterintuitively, *true power* is seen, found, and experienced in *total weakness*. What Paul was writing to the church in Corinth, the church in Philadelphia was likewise experiencing. It’s not until believers are stripped of earthly influence, competence, and independence that God’s power can be fully understood and demonstrated.

### The CHRISTIANS of PHILADELPHIA

vv. 8b, 9b–10a

- *Powerless* for Christ
- *Obedient* to Christ
- *Faithful* to Christ
- *Suffering* like Christ
- *Loved* by Christ

John 18:25

Acts 5:40–41; Heb 12:1–2

### The CHRIST of the CHRISTIANS of PHILADELPHIA

- The *person* of Christ
- The *promises* of Christ

vv. 7–8a

Lev 11:44; Job 6:10; Ps 22:3

1 John 5:20

vv. 8–12

Accept our WEAKNESS; Embrace his POWER!

\* See, respectively, 2 Cor 8:9; Matt 18:3; 1 Pet 5:6; Matt 16:25; Heb 2:10; Rom 6:22.