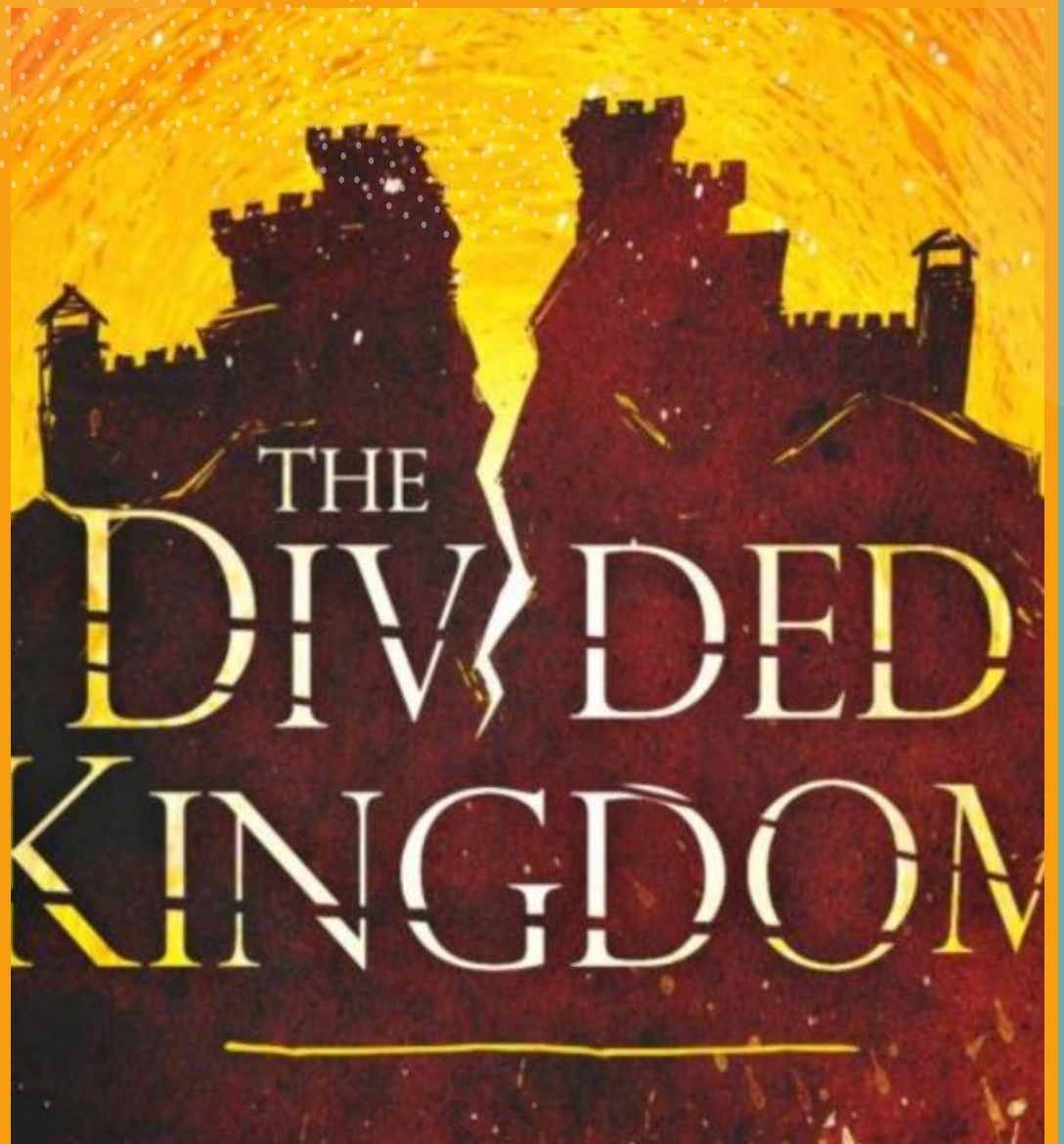


"Every kingdom
divided against itself
is brought to
desolation, and
every city or house
divided against itself
will not stand."
(Matthew 12:25)



Strengths Perceived as Weakness

3rd Sunday of Babah

Discipline or Self-Restraint

- "But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also."
(Matthew 5:39)
- *"Turning the other cheek is not cowardice but the highest form of self-control, for by doing so, we overcome evil with good."* (St. John Chrysostom)
- *"Self-control is the doorway to all virtue, for without it no one can achieve a pure heart."* (Abba Poemen)

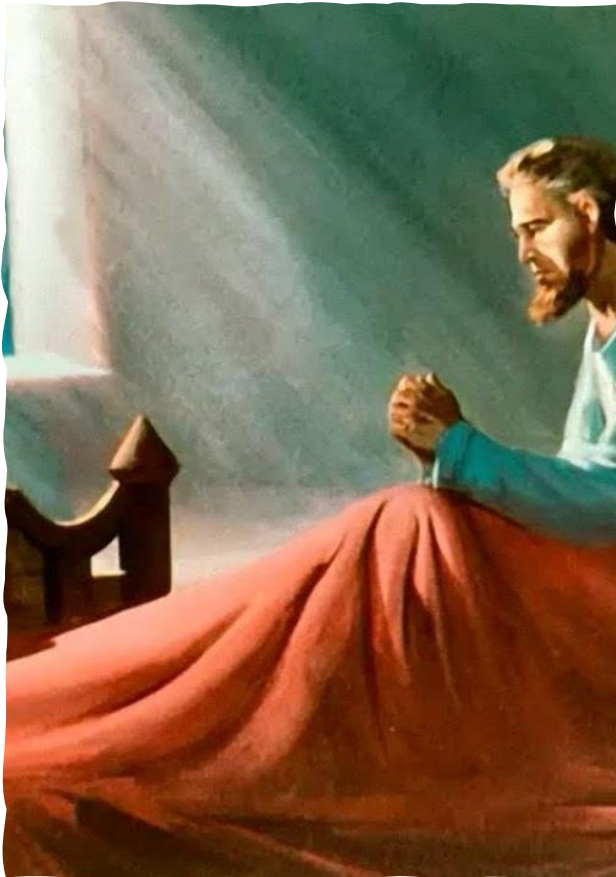


Humility (Meekness)



- "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5)
- *"Meekness is the mother of all virtues. For no one who is meek is troubled, no one who is easily offended is meek."* (St. John Chrysostom)
- "Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth." (Numbers 12:3)
- *"The man who is truly meek is the most powerful of men."* (Abba Moses)

Youthfulness



- "Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people." (1 Kings 3:9)
- "The battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands." (1 Samuel 17:47)
- "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)
- *"It is not youth that is a hindrance but the lack of wisdom, for many young people surpass their elders in godliness and virtue." (St. John Chrysostom)*
- *"Do not look down on the young ones, for they can carry the yoke of Christ even more strongly than the old when their hearts are pure." (Abba Poemen)*

A Thorn in the Flesh

- "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."
(2 Corinthians 12:9)
- *"For my part, I take this infirmity to be a token of God's care for me, lest I should exalt myself, and a school of humility."* (St. Gregory of Nazianzus)



Dependence on God

- "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3)
- "When I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:10)
- *"Our whole strength lies in prayer and our weakness in trusting ourselves."* (St. Augustine)
- *"A heart that is poor in spirit, empty of self-sufficiency, is open to receiving the riches of God's grace."* (St. Basil the Great)

Long-Suffering

- "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength." (Isaiah 40:31)
- *"Patience in affliction is greater than any external victory, for in patience, we participate in the sufferings of Christ."* (St. Gregory the Theologian)
- *"The greater the trials, the more glorious the crown."* (Abba Anthony)

Serving Others

- "But whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant." (Mark 10:43)
- *"If you do not make yourself equal to the smallest of your brothers, you cannot be greater than them."* (St. Isaac the Syrian)
- *"If a man is meek, humble, and serves others, he has fulfilled all the commandments of God."* (Abba Poemen)