



**The Ark Community**  
# 110: **FIERCE FRAGILITY**  
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*"Some are spared severe temptations but are overcome by the lesser ones of every day, in order that they may be humble and learn not to trust in themselves, **but to recognize their frailty.**" (Ch.13, *The Imitation of Christ*, Thomas A. Kempis)*

In our daily prayers, we have been reading a chapter a day from *The Imitation of Christ*, today's chapter was about resisting temptations and this final passage (quoted above) for me, really stood out. Thomas Kempis writes that as we are overcome by daily temptations, as we fall, our dependence on our Heavenly Father increases and we have to trust in Him.

There was something in me that breathed a sigh of relief as I realized that I had to acknowledge my frailty, my weakness: to acknowledge that in my own strength I can do nothing (John 15:5). It sometimes seems strange to me that as I surrender, so I win.

Jesus says in Matthew 16, *"Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny themselves** and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but **whoever loses their life for me will find it.**"*(v.24-25)

He is abundantly rich in compassion and kindness for us; He knows our frailty and because of His love for us, compels us to die daily. **He longs to be gracious to us and rises to show us compassion** (Isaiah 30:18). To die daily, for me, means to give up, to surrender to His grace and allow Him to fill me with His love. This daily surrender admits that apart from Him, we can do nothing. We allow **His** strength to fill us and enable us to resist temptation.

Because the incredible message is that we are not called to cower in the corner with our frailty, but we are compelled in love, to fight! I love that at the end of 1 Timothy, Paul gives him a "Final Charge," a mandate, a command, *"**But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.**"*(1 Tim 6:11-12)

It is our very surrender, our dying to self, which enables us to fight. His grace covers us and becomes our armour, His spirit fills us and gives us strength. Therefore, the reality of our fragile nature and the call to stand and fight do not have to oppose one another, but as we acknowledge our weakness, He comes and makes His strength perfect in us. As Paul suggests, I am going to try and boast in my weakness, even to delight in hardship and persecution. I will try to humbly give in to His grace when I fail and trust in Him. Because **when I am weak, I am truly strong.** (2 Cor.12:10)