

OUR WEAKNESS, GOD'S STRENGTH - Part 2

"God purposely chose what the world considers nonsense in order to put wise men to shame, and what the world considers weak in order to put powerful men to shame." 1 Cor. 1:27 (GN)

"WEAKNESS": any limitation that I inherited or cannot change

"We have this treasure from God, but we are like clay jars that hold the treasure. This shows that the great power is from God, not from us." 2 Cor. 4:7 (NCV)

HOW TO USE YOUR WEAKNESSES

I. ADMIT MY WEAKNESSES

"I will brag. . . about my weaknesses." 2 Cor. 12:5 (NCV)

II. BE GRATEFUL FOR MY WEAKNESSES

"I have cheerfully made up my mind to be proud of my weaknesses, because they mean a deeper experience of the power of Christ." 2 Cor. 12:9b (Ph)

WHY?

1. It Guarantees God's Help

(God) "I am with you; that's all you need. My power shows up best in weak people." (Paul) "For when I am weak, then I am strong - the less I have, the more I depend on him." 2 Cor. 12:9 & 10b (LB)

2. It Prevents Arrogance

"To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassing great revelations, there was given to me a thorn in my flesh. . . ." (2 Cor. 12:7) NIV

3. It Causes Me To Value Others

"Some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary." 1 Cor. 12:22 (LB)

4. It Gives Me A Ministry

"(God) comforts us in our troubles, so that we can comfort those in trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received." 2 Cor. 1:4 (NIV)

III. SHARE MY WEAKNESSES

WHY?

➤ It Is Emotionally Healthy

"Confess your faults to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16 (NIV)

➤ It Is Spiritually Empowering

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6 (NIV)

➤ It Is Relationally Attractive

"We were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our own lives as well." 1 Thess. 2:8 (NIV)

➤ It Is A Mark Of Leadership

"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." 1 Cor. 11:1 (NIV)

WHAT TO SHARE

- ◆ My Failures (Rom. 7:18-19)
- ◆ My Feelings (2 Cor. 6:11)
- ◆ My Faults (2 Cor. 3:5)
- ◆ My Frustrations (2 Cor. 1:8-9)
- ◆ My Fears (1 Cor. 2:3 & 5)

"I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets...whose weakness was turned to strength." Heb. 11:32-34 (NIV)

"Although he died on the cross in weakness, Jesus now lives by the mighty power of God. We, too, are weak, but we live in him and have God's power..."

2 Cor. 13:4 (NLT)