

The Strength of My Weakness

July 15, 2007

Acknowledge your weakness

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. 2 Corinthians chapter 4 verse 7 (884)

Own your weakness

Three different times I begged the Lord to take it (the weakness!) away. Each time He said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

2 Corinthians chapter 12 verses 8 & 9 (888)

- Notice that the power (*dunamis* - miraculous power!) of God is shown in me thru my weakness!!
- Do you want to experience the miraculous power of God in your life? You will do this in the area of your weakness!
- How? Why?

My weakness teaches me greater dependence on God

- God was looking for someone to use to defeat the Midian army of 135,000
- So He chose Gideon, the youngest child in a poor family
- Gideon assembled an army of 32,000 fighters (*4 to 1*)
- God ultimately whittled this group down to 300 fighters (*450 to 1*)
- Why?
- *The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength." Judges chapter 7 verse 2 (194)*

My weakness keeps my pride in check

- *God opposes the proud but favors the humble. 1 Peter chapter 5 verse 5 (937)*
- God allows weaknesses in our lives to keep us humble...so we don't get proud!
- Even the Apostle Paul struggled with pride...
- *To keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time He said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

2 Corinthians chapter 12 verses 7 - 10 (888)

My weakness gives me the ability to come along-side of others

- ***God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.***
2 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 4 (882)
- Often my most passionate message comes out of the area of my greatest hurt
- Those who deny their pain & wounds will only ever have surface relationships with others. And instead of comfort, they will only ever have “pat” answers to give & will be seen as “plastic” by others

My weakness teaches me greater dependence on others

- ***God makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.***
Ephesians chapter 4 verse 16 (897)
- I need to be doing my “own special work” so I help others grow around me
- As I do my part & allow others to do their part in my life, I become “healthy & growing & full of love!”
- ***“Snowflakes are frail, but if enough of them stick together they can stop traffic.”***
--Vance Havner

Next Sunday: We begin our new study, “God Is...”, a study of who God is & what He’s like