



Using Your Weaknesses

First Church ~ Sunday, November 24, 2002

Luke 6:6-10 (KJV) And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him. But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth. Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it? And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (LB) This plan of mine is not what you would work out, neither are my thoughts the same as yours! For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than yours, and my thoughts than yours.

1 Corinthians 1:27 (TEV) God purposely chose what the world considers nonsense in order to shame the wise, and he chose what the world considers weak in order to shame the powerful.

Zechariah 4:6b (KJV) Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

A weakness is any limitation in my life that I _____ or cannot _____.

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NCV) 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.

HOW CAN I USE MY WEAKNESSES?

1. _____ MY WEAKNESSES
2. BE _____ FOR MY WEAKNESSES

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 (PHI) Three times I begged the Lord for it to leave me, but his reply has been, "My grace is enough for you: for where there is weakness, my power is shown the more completely." Therefore, 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 Corinthians 12:8-9 (LB) Three different times I begged God to make me well again. Each time he said, "No. But I am with you; that is all you need. My power shows up best in weak people." Now I am glad to boast about how weak I am; I am glad to be a living demonstration of Christ's power, instead of showing off my own power and abilities.

a) It guarantees God's _____.

GOD: 2 Corinthians 12:9a (LB) But I am with you; that is all you need. My power shows up best in weak people.

PAUL: 2 Corinthians 12:10b (LB) For when I am weak, then I am strong – the less I have, the more I depend on him.

b) It prevents _____.

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV) To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

c) It causes me to value _____.

1 Corinthians 12:22 (LB) And some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT) A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

d) It gives me a _____.

2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT) He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

- **When you share your strength, it always creates _____.**
- **When you share your weakness, it always creates _____.**
- **Vulnerability is the key to intimacy and fellowship.**

Hebrews 11:32-34 (NIV) And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets ... whose weakness was turned to strength.