Weak People Do Amazing Things

Jonathan Banning · 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

INTRODUCTION

- It is not about weak people becoming stronger. The Christian life is about weak people accepting just how weak they are.
- Once you know that you're weak, once you really accept it and you really admit it, you stop depending on yourself. And you start depending on God.

1 Weak People Do Amazing Things

Judges 6:11–15; Hebrews 11:32–34; Isaiah 40:28–31

- Gideon is a guy who knows without a doubt he is really weak.
- O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least of Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house.
- 300 unarmed men don't defeat massive armies without the help of God.
- Those who look at themselves and know that they're weak are forced to lean on the power of God.
- Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

2 Depending on Our Own Strength, We Play It Safe

Psalm 34:8

- One of the most common mistakes that we make in our walk with the Lord is that we depend on our own strength instead of his strength.
- When people depend on their own strength instead of God's strength, you find that people end up playing it safe.
- Sometimes that looks like a man who never speaks to his neighbor about Jesus.
- That looks like the person who knows the right thing to do, but does not do it. Because doing the right thing is scary and hard and risky and uncomfortable.
- Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

3 An Absolutely Robust Prayer Life

1 Peter 5:6–7

- That means that you should have an absolutely robust prayer life.
- You need to make sure that you are praying to God and depending on God through prayer again and again and again throughout your life.
- Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

4 Lives of Total Obedience

Matthew 7:24

- We need to be the kind of people who do exactly what God says, without exception, without qualification.
- Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts upon them may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.
- Total obedience shows just how much we trust in God and his word.

5 Patient Suffering

2 Corinthians 12:9–10

- Depending on God's power looks like patient suffering.
- The thorn is what reminds Paul of his weakness. The thorn is what keeps him from exalting himself.
- If we are going to depend on the power of God, that means whenever suffering comes into our lives, we receive it with joy.
- Because it changes us in ways that other things in this world cannot change us.

6 Rising to the Challenge Before You

- They still choose to rise to the challenge before them and trust in the power of God.
- When the challenge rises before you, when you are thrust into that moment of decision, do not lose heart, do not shrink back.
- You are weak. And you are not strong enough to handle it. But God is.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If you're weak, you can be made strong through the saving power of Jesus' blood today.**

MY NOTES