

My Strength Is Made Perfect In Weakness

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” (II Corinthians 12:9-10).

“And God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty” (I Corinthians 1:27).

We try to make our weaknesses excuses. We want to tell how big we are, how great we are. I think that's one of the things that God gave me the text for, was to get that out of our mind.

There's little things that we do. And that's what we come to church for, is **to find out where our faults are, and the things that we might better ourselves by. If we come to church for any other objective than this, I'm afraid we won't get too much out of coming to church. We must come to find our weaknesses, find our bad places and see how little we are, and put our trust in Somebody that's strong.**

There's so many of us like to testify or like to think that we're insufficient; and therefore, we make that an excuse, "I have no education; I have no ability; I'm unable to do this." And if you keep that up and do that in that way, keep going like that, **then you can't 'mount to anything.** But the very thing that we make excuses by our weaknesses, **God uses that very thing to tackle the job with.** See? **He waits for us to get to that condition so that He can use us.** We take the excuses and say, "Well, I can't do this, I'm insufficient. I can't do it." **And God takes that very thing to do the job with.** That's true.

That's the reason **why that He chooses us, because we're in that condition** (*I Cor. 1:26-29*). Now, that sounds strange, but just a few minutes we'll get to the reason of it, if God being willing.

Notice that **it takes the weakest and the rejected,** and practically every hero God ever had on the front line was that type of person (*Judges 6:11-24*). A person that was rejected, a person that thought he was insufficient, **a person that had no ability at all,** then that person's just in good shape so God can start using them. That's right. When they feel like that they can't, **they haven't got nothing, that's when God can take a hold of them** and do something with them. See? But when we are thinking that we're able to do it, **then God can't use us because we're wanting to do it ourselves.**

And then, the other side, we get these feelings and we think then that we're insufficient, and we don't want to do it; **but then if we just listen to the**

call of God, that's the very thing that God wants us to get into, that kind of a shape so He can.

When we are insufficient ourselves, **then we are subjects to yield to God's Spirit** (*II Chron. 20:1-23*). **As long as we think that we can do it, then we can't do it. But when we get to a place where we know we can't do it, then we yield ourself to God and He does it.** So then if it's us trying to do it we'll fail, **but if we'll just yield ourself to God then God can't fail.** There's only one thing that God cannot do, and that's fail. He can do anything else but fail. **But He cannot fail.**

So as long as we're trying in ourselves and depending on our own abilities, why, we'll do nothing. But when we get to a place **where we know we're nothing, then God can use us.**

The important thing, one of the important things that we must master... Now, remember this, and especially you young preachers, and lay members alike. **There's one thing that we've got to master if we expect to fulfill God's desire in our life; that is, we have to master the thought of human ability.** If we ever get to a spot where we think that we can do it with our **own intelligence and our own abilities**, we've got to master that in such a way that we can get rid of the thing and lay it aside **so that God can use us.** That's right.

And make a complete surrender! We cannot use one ability. We've got to make a complete surrender. And to come to God, **you've got to surrender to Him both soul, body, and spirit. Everything that you are has to be surrendered to God in order that He can work His will in you and in me** (*I Cor. 6:19-20*).

Now, **that's hard;** I know; 'cause we're always wanting to put our part in, something that we know, you know, that we want to do it. We say, "Well, I just know it should be done this way." **But as long as you're doing it that way it's going to be wrong, and God will never use that effort.**

That's what's the matter with the world today: there's too much seminary experiences, too much placed upon education, too much placed upon relationship or fellowships in denomination; we rest on one another; **we rest upon men with ability.**

When we are expecting, saying, "This guy, he's a great person. This is a great person; I'll just lean upon him," **that displeases God** when you do that. **We must lean upon God and God alone** (*Prov. 3:5-6*). We mustn't trust the ability of ourselves or any man. **We must completely yield to God.**

No ability, I don't care whose it is, will never be usable in the sight of God. **God has to get all of our abilities out of us before He can achieve His purpose.** If He's got something for us to do, **and as long as we feel that we're doing a pretty good job out of it, then we'll never be able to be used of God.**

Listen to Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 2:1-5, "*And I was with you in... (greatness? In what?)... weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.*"

Could you imagine a man, a Pharisee of the Pharisees, a teacher of the teachers, a man that was trained from childhood for the ministry to be an eloquent man that was smart and brilliant, to come before a class of people like the Corinthians and say, "I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and much trembling"... A man who turned the world upside down, **the greatest missionary that's ever been known, confessed that he come in weakness, not as a trained scholar, but in the weakness and fear, lest he'd step off the path somewhere, in much trembling, because he could not trust in his own ability.**

The reason he was fearing, not because he was scared of anything; **but he was scared he would displease God in some way, that he'd get his own ability mixed up into it; something that he'd learned.** He was telling them that, "I didn't come to you with this excellency of speech; I come to you in fear that I would come that way; **but I come to you knowing nothing but Christ and Him crucified.**" (*I Cor. 1:18-25; Gal. 6:14*).

"And I come to you in fear, and weakness, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with the enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power."

Listen to this man who was a warrior had stripped himself. Amen. **If there's anything** that our schools need today, if it's anything our churches need today, **is a stripping of themselves, of your own thoughts and your own abilities.** Strip yourselves before God unless you would try to do something within yourselves.

I hope that gets down deep to us, **that you realize that you've got to become nothing: not a know-it-all, not a great somebody, but a nobody. You got to come dust. You've got to get to a place that you know that you're nothing.** And don't never rise above it, for as soon as you rise above it, **you rise above God.** You've got to keep yourself in the dust and on the road to Damascus (*Acts 9:1-21*). You've got to keep yourself off your high horses.

"My speech," he said, "was not in the enticing words of men and man's wisdom, but in the demonstration of the Spirit of power." Now, watch. "What for, Paul? Why'd you do this?"

"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

Oh, what a preacher! He sought God, and he said, "God, I am weak, and I don't know what to do. I just pray You, God, to strengthen me, take my infirmities away from me, and these things, so I can be stronger."

God spoke back to him, said, **"Paul, My strength is made perfect in your weakness."** (*II Cor. 12:9-10*).

Then Paul said, "When I am weak then I am strong." Yes, he said, **"Then I will glory in my infirmities of my weaknesses.** I'm thanking God that I got all of it out of me. **And when I get everything out of me, then God can come in. But as long as I got some of myself there, then God can't get in."**

There, **that's it; we smother Him out. We drive Him away...** From the poorest of us to the richest of us, from the least to the greatest, **we keep God out of our lives because of our ourselves.**

I've often said, "The greatest enemy I got is William Branham." He's the one that gets in God's way. He's the one that gets lazy. He's the one that gets to a place sometimes **where he thinks he can do something about it, and when he does, that shoves God right out of the picture.** But when I can get rid of that guy, **when I can get to a place that he's out of the way, then God can come over and do things that William Branham knows nothing about.**

That's when God can use you. That's when He can use any of you. **He can use anybody when we get out of the way.** But as long as we got ourselves in the way, then we cannot.

God said to Paul, "My strength is perfect in your weakness. **My strength becomes more perfect as you become more weaker. The more you can yield to Me the better I can use you.** The more you can forget about your education, the more you can forget about your denomination, the more you can forget about your stuff and yield yourself to Me, the more I can use you. **'Cause you become weak, I'll make My own purpose strong.**" (*Rom. 8:28-30*).

God can make strength out of weakness. That's the reason He always does it. When He chose His disciples...

Who would think of the humility of His Own Son when He was born in a manger, in a manured barn, in the cow stall, and was wrapped in swaddlings cloth? See, He could've come through a palace, He could've come down the corridors of heaven, and a full Angel salute. But He chose to make Christ the Example for us, **and He brought Him in humility** (*Phil. 2:5-11*).

He never trained Him in the schools of this world, but He trained Him by His Own power so He could completely **yield Himself, not to the thoughts of man** or the strength of the world, **but yield Himself to the power of God** (*John 5:19*).

That's what's us today; we yield ourself over to the denomination, what it's got to say, what they say about it. But that is contrary to God's will. **We've got to yield ourself to the Spirit of God and go where the Spirit says go.** That's right.

God's soldiers, heroes, they had to get weak before they could get strong. Out of their weaknesses they were made strong (*Heb. 11:34*).

Here's something to console us. Here's something that encourages. **Out of weakness and humility God chooses the people to build His Kingdom out of.** If we ever get to heaven, if we ever stand in the Presence of God with His Church, we'll stand in a bunch of people that's been weak and rejected and cast out by the world, and know-it-nothings.

Isn't it strange that God likened us to sheep? (*John 10:1-29*). A sheep is the most helpless thing there is. There's nothing so insufficient of defense

than the sheep. A rabbit can run; a squirrel can get in a tree; a dog can bite; a lion can tear; a horse can kick; a bird can fly; **but a sheep stands helpless. That's the way God wants us.** Realize that we are totally insufficient, then God takes that person and begins to mold Himself into that person: **make his hands do what God would have hands to do, make his lips speak what God's lips would speak; because they're not his; they're God's.** He begins to build a character, begins to take this weakness and to make His Ownself.

He brings us here in the earth. But then we are educated; we're smart. Did you ever notice the lines, the lineages? When we take, for instance, like in Abel, from Abel come Seth; Seth's lineage come right down, on down to Noah's time, all of them were just **humble farmers.** But Cain's children become smart, shrewd, educated, great men, builders, professional men. **But God's side was weak and humble.** That's how God used them. That's God's opportunity. **That's God's way of getting to us, is when we're weak. We get something then.**

This encourages, of course, 'cause God's whole Kingdom is built out of these kind of people. Then when you get to that kind of a way then you're in His Kingdom.

The case is, with us, **not that we are too weak, the case is we're too strong. We're just too strong.** That's all. The thing of it is we're too strong-headed. That's right. We're too strong in our head. **We know too much.** God wants to get that out of us. That's right. We're too strong to yield to Him. **We yield to ourselves.** We got to think, "Well now, here, I got sense enough to know."

Whenever you get licked and realize you're licked, and then come on back and humble yourself. **Get weak, find out you're human.** And there's none of your intellectuals can do to... **Human weaknesses will never be used of God; God by the human weaknesses pours Himself into you (Col. 1:26-27), then He uses Himself.** You just become an instrument (*Gal. 2:19-21*). Certainly. **You've got to get yourself out of the way.**

Moses learned human weaknesses real good. He learned it so well, **till when God called him, he had six weaknesses that he could argue against God's call.** Did you ever study in the first part of Exodus, the six weaknesses? I got them wrote out here; I want you to listen to them:

The first weakness he had was the lack of a message.

Second weakness he had was the lack of authority.

The third weakness he had was a lack of eloquence.

The fourth was adaption. The fifth one was success. And the sixth one was exception.

Now, you compare yours with his and see if you can come up with that, see if you can get as weak as he was. "Lord, I ain't no good. I can't speak. I slew an Egyptian. I can't go back. Oh, everything. They won't receive me. I got no message. I can't speak. And I'm slow in speech." And see how he was? He was nothing. Brother, he'd been cured. Yeah, God could use him then after

he was cured. He had six different weaknesses, and he'd learned human weakness.

Did God feel sorry for Moses with all of his weaknesses, said, "Poor little Moses, something sure has happened to you; you fell from your degree...you come confessing that you are nothing, you can't do a thing. You're just so weak." No. **God wasn't sorry for him. God never took pity on him.** God had him cured then of all that stuff. *Exodus 4:14, "The anger of God was kindled against him."* **God wasn't sorry for him 'cause he was weak.** You say, "O Lord, I just feel so bad. I don't believe I could do it." **God doesn't feel sorry for you: feels like kicking you around a little bit.** God doesn't feel sorry for you; **He gets angry with you.** You're just getting in shape then to where He can use you. [1]

Like Paul said, he had an infirmity, something was bothering him. The devil would buffet him, blow after blow. And he consulted the Lord, three times, to take it away from him, said, "I don't want this, Lord. Take it away from me!" (*I Cor. 12:1-10*). And then one night the Lord spoke to him, said, **"Paul, my grace is sufficient."**

He said, **"Then I'll glory in my infirmity. I'll glory in it. I know You're the Healer.** I've seen You heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out devils, open the eyes of the blind. But if I've consulted You, and You tell me it's Your grace is sufficient, **then this devil that bothers me is the growing pains of Your grace.** Then I'll glory in my infirmities." Why? **"If lest I get exalted above the abundance of the revelation."**

See, he had something the other disciples didn't have, **he saw Him after His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. He saw Him.** Some of them say, "Well, I walked with Him." So did everybody on the street. But after He was dead, buried, rose, and ascended up, **and returned back in the form of a Pillar of Fire,** He talked to Paul. That was more than any of the rest of them had. Amen.

He said, "Except I get exalted and want to build great big seminaries, lest I get exalted above the abundance of this revelation, **God let a messenger of the devil keep me beat down.**" He said, **"Then when I'm weak, I'm strong."** Amen. Amen. **Growing pains of grace!** Amen. We could stay on that a long time; **we're suffering His grace pains.**

Oh, **He may permit crossroads to try us, to perfect us for His service.** He may permit that now, Church. He may permit the crossroads for our service. [2]

Reference:

[1] "Perfect Strength By Perfect Weakness" (61-1119), par. 42-45, 52-62, 89-100, 111-123, 166-169, 181-183 [2] "Shalom" (64-0112), par. 217-222

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There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.

[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]