

Supplemental Scriptures

Judges 6:13-16 "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive."

Judges 7: 2 The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.'"

2 Corinthians 12:5-10 I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Psalms 28:7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Isaiah 40:29-31 "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

2 Corinthians 4:7-11 "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body."

Axioms — Ron Marsh

July 11, 2021

When Dependency Is the Goal, Weakness Is an Asset

Judges 7, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

3 Reasons Your Weakness Is an Asset

1. Weakness reduces your _____ and displays God's power.

God will often reduce you so that He can _____ you.

2. Weakness increases your _____ and grows your faith.

Growth _____: God reveals Himself, you respond in faith.

God wants to grow your faith and teach you to _____ your doubts.

3. Weakness stimulates your _____ and activates your obedience.

God accomplishes His _____ through humility, faith, and obedience.

God works through your obedience to reveal His _____.

Jesus + Nothing = _____

Life Group Ice Breaker

1. We often take pride in our accomplishments. What is one major accomplishment that you take pride in? What is one major failure that has humbled you?

Discussion Questions

2. Regarding this sermon, is there any truth that stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?

3. Read Judges 6 & 7. What do you think God was trying to teach Israel?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 12:5-10. What makes weakness an asset? What makes strength a disadvantage?

5. What do you think about the statement; “God will often reduce you so that He can use you.”?

6. What test is more difficult to pass, the test of adversity or the test of prosperity? Why?

Application Questions & Prayer

7. What does it look like for you to humble yourself (kill pride) and completely surrender to God?

8. God works through our humility, faith, and obedience. What does it look like for you to take the “next step” in each of these areas?

9. Pray that God would reveal to you where you are boasting in self rather than God. Confess to another follower of Christ the areas of selfishness and pride that you are aware of. Then, try this week to boast in God rather than self.