

A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't

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"How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight."

Hebrews 11:32–34 (NLT)

"Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." **James 5:13–16 (NLT)**

A FAITH THAT CAN TRANSFORM WEAKNESSES

THE PROCESS GOD USES TO TRANSFORM MY WEAKNESSES

I. I MUST _____ MY NATURAL WEAKNESSES

"Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us." **Romans 12:3 (NLT)**

"Friends, why are you doing this? We are merely human beings—just like you! We have come to bring you the Good News that you should turn from these worthless things and turn to the living God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them." **Acts 14:15 (NLT)**

II. I MUST LEARN HOW GOD WANTS TO _____ MY WEAKNESSES

1. MY WEAKNESSES SHOULD PREVENT _____

"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."

2 Corinthians 12:7–9 (NIV)

2. MY WEAKNESSES SHOULD CAUSE ME TO _____ OTHERS

"Some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary."

1 Corinthians 12:22 (LB)

3. MY WEAKNESSES SHOULD MAKE ME DEPENDENT ON _____

"Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am quite happy about 'the thorn,' and about insults and hardships, persecutions and difficulties; for when I am weak, then I am strong—the less I have, the more I depend on him."

2 Corinthians 12:10 (LB)

"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 12:9b (PH)**

4. MY WEAKNESSES SHOULD GIVE ME A _____

"Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." **2 Corinthians 1:4 (NIV)**

Jesus to Peter: "But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

Luke 22:32 (NLT)

III. I MUST _____ ADMIT MY WEAKNESSES TO CHANGE THEM

- **VULNERABILITY IS SPIRITUALLY _____**
"But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

James 4:6 (NIV)

- **VULNERABILITY IS EMOTIONALLY _____**

MEMORY VERSE:

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and
pray for each other so that you may be
healed. The prayer of a righteous person is
powerful and effective.*

James 5:16a (NIV)

- **VULNERABILITY IS RELATIONALLY** _____

"We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check." **James 3:2a (NIV)**

- **VULNERABILITY IS A REQUIREMENT FOR** _____

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom." **James 3:13 (NIV)**

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."
James 4:10 (NIV)

PAUL'S EXAMPLE OF VULNERABILITY

"We speak with complete honesty, hiding nothing, sharing our true feelings, and opening our heart wide to you."
2 Corinthians 6:11 (NIV)

- **A TRUE LEADER ADMITS _____**

"We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead." **2 Corinthians 1:8–9 (NLT)**

- **A TRUE LEADER ADMITS _____**

"There is nothing in us that allows us to claim that we are capable of doing this work. The capacity we have comes from God." **2 Corinthians 3:5 (TEV)**

- **A TRUE LEADER ADMITS _____**

"I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway." **Romans 7:18b–19 (NLT)**

- **A TRUE LEADER ADMITS _____**

"I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling." **1 Corinthians 2:3 (NIV)**

"So that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power." **1 Corinthians 2:5 (NIV)**

• **A TRUE LEADER ADMITS _____**

"Oh, my dear Corinthian friends! I have told you all my feelings; I love you with all my heart."

2 Corinthians 6:11 (LB)

_____ **WITH AN ACCOUNTABILITY
PARTNER**

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS:

- ✓ I will memorize **James 5:16a (NIV)**
- ✓ I will accept Christ for the first time
- ✓ I will join the New Life church family
- ✓ I will sign up for the next baptism
- ✓ I will begin praying for who I will invite to Easter at New Life on Sat, April 19 or Sun, April 20

Join us on our ***Prayer Line*** by calling
(712)832-7030. Enter access code, 1919#.

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open daily from 6am-7am CST.

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