

A FAITH THAT CAN TRANSFORM WEAKNESSES

A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't – Rick Warren

"I don't have time to tell you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel . . . whose weaknesses were turned into strengths." Hebrews 11:32, 34

"Are you HURTING? Then you should pray. Are you happy? Then you should sing songs of praise. Are you SICK? You should call the church elders to pray over you and anoint you with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will save the SICK PERSON; the Lord will raise him up. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven. Therefore, CONFESS your faults to each other and PRAY for each other so that you may be HEALED." James 5:13-16

HURTING: kakopatheo = having trouble, suffering

SICK: ästheneo = a weakness or an illness

SICK PERSON: kamno = one who has grown weary and weak

"Confess your faults to one another—your sins, slip-ups, false steps, offenses, and weaknesses—and pray for one another, so that you may be healed and restored to a spiritual tone of mind and heart." James 5:16 (AMP)

THE PROCESS GOD USES TO TRANSFORM MY WEAKNESSES

I. I MUST _____ MY NATURAL WEAKNESSES

"Be honest in your estimate of yourself. Don't think you're better than you are."

Romans 12:3 (NLT/NCV)

"We too are only men! We're just human like you!" Acts 14:15

II. I MUST _____ MY WEAKNESSES

1. MY WEAKNESSES SHOULD _____

"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. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you.'" 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

2. MY WEAKNESSES SHOULD _____

"Some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary." 1 Corinthians 12:22 (TLB)

3. MY WEAKNESSES SHOULD _____

"I am with you; that is all you need. My power shows up best in weak people!"

2 Corinthians 12:9 (TLB)

Paul: *"For when I am weak, then I am really strong. The less I have, the more I depend on him."* 2 Corinthians 12:10 (TLB)

"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 12:9 (PHILLIPS)

4. MY WEAKNESSES SHOULD _____

"God comforts us in our troubles, so that we can comfort others in any trouble with the same comfort that we ourselves have received from God." 2 Corinthians 1:4

Jesus to Peter: *"When you've returned to me, strengthen your brothers."* Luke 22:32

III. I MUST _____ MY WEAKNESSES TO CHANGE THEM

• VULNERABILITY IS _____

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

• VULNERABILITY IS _____

"Confess your faults to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16

• VULNERABILITY IS _____

"We all stumble in many ways." James 3:2

• VULNERABILITY IS _____

"If you are truly wise and understanding, you will show it by your good life and the deeds that you do with the humility that comes from wisdom." James 3:13

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up!" James 4:10

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

• A TRUE LEADER ADMITS _____

"I think you ought to know dear brothers, about the hard time we went through in Asia. We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God." 2 Corinthians 1:8-9

• 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 (GNT)

• A TRUE LEADER ADMITS _____

"I am the worst of all sinners." 1 Timothy 1:15

"I have the desire to do what is right, but I just can't carry it out! For what I do isn't the good I want to do; No, I keep doing the evil I don't want to do!" Romans 7:18-19

• A TRUE LEADER ADMITS _____

"I came to you in weakness and fear . . . so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom but on God's power." 1 Corinthians 2:3,5

• 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 (TLB)

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