

“THE POWER OF WEAKNESS ”

*“God purposely chose what the world considers nonsense in order to put wise men to shame, and what the world considers **weak** in order to put powerful men to shame.”*

1 Corinthians 1:27 (GN)

“**WEAKNESS:**” a limitation that I inherited or cannot change.

HOW TO USE YOUR WEAKNESSES

I. ADMIT YOUR WEAKNESSES.

II. BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WEAKNESSES.

*“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)

FOUR BENEFITS:

1. IT GUARANTEES GOD’S HELP.

(God) “I am with you; that’s all you need. My power shows up best in weak people...”

(Paul) “For when I am weak, then I am strong—the less I have, the more I depend on him.”

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (LB)

2. IT PREVENTS ARROGANCE.

*“To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a **thorn** in my flesh...”*

2 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV)

3. IT CAUSES ME TO VALUE OTHERS.

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

1 Corinthians 12:22 (LB)

4. IT GIVES ME A MINISTRY.

“(God) comforts us in our troubles, so that we can comfort those in trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received.”

2 Corinthians 1:4 (NIV)

III. BE WILLING TO SHARE YOUR WEAKNESSES.

WHY?

1. IT IS EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY.

*“Confess your faults to each other and pray for each other **so that you may be healed.**”* James 5:16 (NIV)

2. IT IS SPIRITUALLY EMPOWERING.

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6 (NIV)

3. IT IS RELATIONALLY ATTRACTIVE.

“We were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our own lives as well.”

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

4. IT IS A MARK OF LEADERSHIP.

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)