

“HEALING THE BROKENHEARTED (PART 3)—EMBRACING GODLY WEAKNESS AND UNDERSTANDING THE TRANSFER OF POWER”

DEALING WITH OUR “STRENGTH”

As we mentioned when we started this current series of writings, we are taking a look back and reflecting on some of the more common issues that have been present in many of the people that we have worked with. One of these issues—which might seem unusual at first—has been the need to address “strength” in many of the people who have come for healing and greater intimacy with God. “Why in the world would the Lord direct us to address someone’s strength?” you might ask. Wouldn’t He want to build up and preserve the strength that we have? The answer to those questions is “yes,” if that strength is rooted in and coming from Him! Unfortunately, many times that is not the case, and it actually stands in the way of what He desires to do in hearts.

FLESH-BASED STRENGTH AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY . . . ITS ORIGIN

As we walk through this life—and the many difficult things that come our way—we develop ways to deal with things or “survive.” In that process we sometimes learn how to become “strong” or “self-sufficient,” but that strength is rooted in our own flesh and not in the power of God living within us. This can be especially true in those who have not had enough love and nurture while growing up, and in those who were emotionally, spiritually, physically or sexually abused. Often when a person has learned to function from this place, they seem to have little need for help from others—including God. Although he or she might say that they need others—and especially God—the way they live and interact in relationships does not support this. In fact, many people living from this place have a very difficult time even identifying that they have needs. Also, people who have “survived” for a long time prior to becoming a Christian may not have truly made the “transfer of power” that is fundamental to the Christian faith.

ADDRESSING THIS AS A FORM OF PRIDE

Although the world—and even the western church at times—applaud the strong, self-sufficient, and independent individual, such a person may actually be functioning in opposition to God and His will. It really can be a form of pride—not the overtly arrogant pride that we tend to identify quite easily—but the form of pride that says, “I can handle it myself” . . . “I can make it” . . . “I don’t need anyone else’s help (including God’s).” As Neil Anderson states in his “Steps to Freedom in Christ” (Step #5 – “Pride vs. Humility”), “We absolutely need God and we desperately need each other.” In working through this step, Anderson lists different ways in which we may be operating in pride. As you read a few of these, ask yourself if any apply to you . . .

“I rely on my own strengths and abilities rather than depending on the power of the Holy Spirit.”

“I lean too much on my own understanding and experience rather than seeking God’s guidance through prayer and His Word.”

“I have a stronger desire to do my will than God’s will.”

"I have a tendency to think that I have no needs."

THE SOLUTION . . . INVITING WEAKNESS!

In general, we often find that many people have a strong aversion to the concept of weakness—whether it be their own or when they see it in someone else. Unfortunately, we often have a distorted concept of what true weakness means and what it looks like according to God's definition. One of the most important Scriptures for us, and one that God has emphasized over and over, is 2 Cor. 12:9, "But He [God] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I [Paul] will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." Christ spoke this to Paul at a time when Paul was asking repeatedly for relief from a re-occurring struggle of some type (his "thorn" experience). In response to this word from the Lord, Paul then goes on to say in verse 10, "[then] 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." Few would define Paul as being a "weakling" in his Christian life, yet he invited and embraced weakness so that the fullness of God's power could be at work in him. He knew that he could not make it on his own power. He could not fulfill the call on his life working with anything less than the true power of God—His "dunamis" or "dynamite power" (the meaning of that word in Greek). He knew he had to surrender. He understood the true meaning of and invited a "transfer of power."

PRAYER

Please pray with me . . . Father God, I want to live from a place of experiencing Your strength and Your power in me. I am grateful for the gifts and abilities You have given me, but I know that what I have in my own ability is insufficient and inadequate. I invite You to reveal those ways in me whereby I still function from my own strength and not from Yours. Reveal this, Lord, so that I can reject this form of pride and surrender to You and Your ways. Lord, I want to do more than "survive" in this life . . . I want to live it fully. I want to walk in Your authority and Your strength and power . . . not in my own. And Lord, please deal with any anxiety or fear within me related to this complete "transfer of power" to You. Please heal areas of my heart that still do not trust You completely. I invite and embrace Godly weakness and look to You and Your power at work in me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

From the Father's Heart,

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