

A MISUNDERSTOOD GIFT II

II CORINTHIANS 12:1

1 ¶ It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

2 **I knew a man in Christ** above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

3 And I knew **such a man**, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

[STOP]

II CORINTHIANS 12:7

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

DEUTERONOMY 3:23

23 And I besought the LORD at that time, saying,

24 O Lord GOD, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?

25 **I pray thee, let me go over**, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon.

26 But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and **would not hear me**: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; **speak no more unto me of this matter**.

27 Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: **for thou shalt not go over this Jordan**.

JOB 30:19

19 He hath cast me into the mire, and I am become like dust and ashes.

20 I cry unto thee, and thou dost not hear me: I stand up, and thou regardest me not.

II SAMUEL 12:15

15 ¶ And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

17 And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

LAMENTATIONS 3:8

8 Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer.

MARK 14:35

35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

II CORINTHIANS 12:9

9 And he said unto me, My grace is ***SUFFICIENT** for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

SUFFICIENT: arkeo {ar-keh'-o}

be content, be enough, to be possessed of unfailing strength; to be strong, to be satisfied, to be contented.

PERFECT.STRENGTH.BY.PERFECT.WEAKNESS_ JEFF.IN V-8 N-1 SUNDAY_ 61-1119

110.....God said to Paul, "My strength is perfect in your weakness. **My--My strength becomes more perfect as you become more weaker. More you can yield to Me the better I can use you.** The more you can forget about your education, the more you can forget about your denomination, the more you can forget about your stuff and yield yourself to Me, the more I can use you. **'Cause you become weak, I'll--I'll make My own purpose strong.'**

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44 **There's so many of us likes to testify or likes to think that we're insufficient; and therefore, we make that an excuse, "I have no education; I have no ability; I'm unable to do this." And if you keep that up and do that in that way, keep going like that, then you can't 'mount to anything. But the very thing that we make excuses by our weaknesses, God uses that very thing to tackle the job with.** See? He waits for us to get to that condition so that He can use us. We--we take the excuses and say, "Well, I--I--I--I'm

can't do this, I'm insufficient. I--I can't do it." And **God takes that very thing to do the job with. That's true. That's the reason why that He--He chooses us, because we're in that condition.** Now, that sounds strange, but just a few minutes we'll get to the reason of it, if God being willing. We--we find out, just as we've been reading, that weaknesses and rejections... And **we find out that those people who are the weakest and the rejected by the outside world, is God's heroes, that conqueror up in the front line, takes those who are--are--feel themselves unworthy.**

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52 Notice that it takes the--the weakest and the rejected, and **practically every hero God ever had on the front line was that type of person.** A person that was rejected, a person that thought he was insufficient, a person that had no ability at all, **then that person's just in good shape so God can start using them.** That's right. When they feel like that they can't, they haven't got nothing, that's when God can take ahold of them and do something with them. See? When... **But when we are thinking that we're able to do it, then God can't use us because we're wanting to do it ourselves.**

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56 The important thing, one of the important things that we must master... Now, remember this, and especially you young preachers, and lay members alike. **There's one thing that we've got to master if we expect to fulfill God's desire in our life; that is, we have to master the thought of human ability.** If we ever get to a spot where we think that we can do it with our own intelligence and our own abilities, **we've got to master that in such a way that we can get rid of the thing and lay it aside so that God can use us. That's right.**

PERFECT.STRENGTH.BY.PERFECT.WEAKNESS_ JEFF.IN V-8 N-1 SUNDAY_ 61-1119
57 **And make a complete surrender.** We cannot use one ability. We've got to make a complete surrender. And to come to God, you've got to surrender to Him both soul, body, and spirit.

Everything that you are has to be surrendered to God in order that He can work His will in you and in me. Now, that's hard; I know; 'cause we're always wanting to put our part in, something that we know, you know, that we want to do it. We say, "Well, I--I just know it should be done this way." But as long as you're doing it that way it's going to be wrong, and God will never use that effort.....

II CORINTHIANS 12:10

10 Therefore I take ***PLEASURE** in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

PLEASURE: eudokeo {yoo-dok-eh'-o}
be well pleased, be (one's) good pleasure, it seems good to one, to do willingly; to be ready to, to prefer, choose rather

HEBREWS 11:32

32 ¶ And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, **out of weakness were made strong**, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

PERFECT.STRENGTH.BY.PERFECT.WEAKNESS_ JEFF.IN V-8 N-1 SUNDAY_ 61-1119
93.....Paul said, "When I am weak then I am strong." Yes, he said, "Then will... I will glory in my infirmities of my weaknesses and so forth. **I'm thanking God that I got all of it out of me. And when I get everything out of me, then God can come in. But as long as I got some of myself there, then God can't get in.**"

There, that's it; we--we smother Him out. We drive Him away with our... From the poorest of us to the richest of us, from the

least to the greatest, **we keep God out of our lives because of our ownelves.**

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99 I've often said, "**The greatest enemy I got is William Branham.**" He's the one that gets in God's way. He's the one that gets lazy. He's the one that gets to a place sometimes where he thinks he can do something about it, and when he does, that shoves God right out of the picture. **But when I can get rid of that guy**, when I can get to a place that he's out of the way, then God can come over and do things that William Branham knows nothing about. That's when God can use you. That's when He can use any of you. **He can use anybody when we get out of the way. But as long as we got ourselves in the way, then we cannot. All right.**

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110.....**God passes the nobles and gets the weakness. God passes those who thinks they're something to take somebody that don't know nothing to order to work His purpose in their life.** That's what we get. God said to Paul, "My strength is perfect in your weakness. **My-- My strength becomes more perfect as you become more weaker. More you can yield to Me the better I can use you.** The more you can forget about your education, the more you can forget about your denomination, **the more you can forget about your stuff and yield yourself to Me, the more I can use you. 'Cause you become weak, I'll--I'll make My own purpose strong."** **God can make strength out of weakness. That's the reason He always does it.....**

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118 **Here's something to console us. Here's something that encourages. Out of weakness and humility God chooses the people to build His Kingdom out of. If we ever get to heaven, if we ever stand in the Presence of God with**

His Church, we'll stand in a bunch of people that's been weak and rejected and cast out by the world, and know-it-nothings.

Isn't it strange that God likened us to sheep? A sheep is the most helpless thing there is. There's nothing so insufficient of defense than the sheep. A rabbit can run; a squirrel can get in a tree; a dog can bite; a lion can tear; a horse can kick; a bird can fly; **but a sheep stands helpless. That's the way God wants us.**

Realize that we are totally insufficient, then God takes that person and begins to mold Himself into that person: make his hands do what God would have hands to do, make his lips speak what God's lips would speak; because they're not his; they're God's. He begins to build a character, begins to take this weakness and to make His Ownself.

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121.....Did you ever notice the lines, the lineages? When we take, for instance, like in Abel, from Abel come Seth; Seth's lineage come right down, on down to Noah's time, all of them were just humble farmers. But Cain's children become smart, shrewd, educated, great men, builders, professional men. **But God's side was weak and humble.** That's how God used them. That's God's opportunity. **That's God's way of getting to us, is when we're weak. We get something then.**

This encourages, of course, 'cause God's whole Kingdom is built out of these kind of people. **Then when you get to that kind of a way then you--you can--you're in His Kingdom.**

The case is, with us, that, not that we are too weak, **the case is we're too strong. We're--we're--we're just too strong.**

That's all. The thing of it is **we're too strong-headed.** That's right. **We're too strong in our head. We know too much. God wants to get that out of us. That's right. We're too strong; we're too strong to yield to Him. We got... We--we yield to ourselves.** We got to think, "Well now, here, I--I got sense enough to know."

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141.....**Instead of Christians humbling themselves and emptying themselves to find more of the room of God, they try to build themselves up in a homemade knowledge, or some technical school knowledge, or something, that drives them farther away from God than they was when they started.....**

PERFECT.STRENGTH.BY.PERFECT.WEAKNESS_ JEFF.IN V-8 N-1 SUNDAY_ 61-1119
279 When **Jacob lost** all of his strength, then God give him power to become a prince. See? When **Paul lost** his education and all of his theology, God made him a missionary to the Gentiles. When **Moses lost** all of his ability and become weak, God made him powerful and sent him to Egypt in the power of the Spirit, at eighty years old, whiskers hanging down, his wife on a mule and a young'n setting on her hip, and a stick in his hand, went down and conquered Egypt. Yeah. See? Not with an army behind him, like he wanted to go, but in the power of the Spirit. Amen. **When you're weak then you're strong.**

PERFECT.STRENGTH.BY.PERFECT.WEAKNESS_ JEFF.IN V-8 N-1 SUNDAY_ 61-1119
296.....**See what God wants? God's got to have empty vessels.** Listen. We've had so much doctrine, so much ecclesiastical nonsense, until we're down at the end of the barrel. There's only one thing left: turn to God and His Word. And if you'll do that, **get some empty vessels.** Take out all the Methodist out of them, all the Pentecostal out of them, and all the Baptist out of them, and just let them be vessels.....

PERFECT.STRENGTH.BY.PERFECT.WEAKNESS_ JEFF.IN V-8 N-1 SUNDAY_ 61-1119
340.....That's the need of today. That's what we need today, is the empty vessels (Yes, sir.) so God can fill them up.....
.....God cannot use them as long as they're already filled up. If you're full of theological training, God can't use you. God's got to have empty vessels so He can fill them.