

OUT OF WEAKNESS MADE STRONG II

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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.

JUDGES 11:1

1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he was the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah.

2 And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and his wife's sons grew up, and they thrust out Jephthah, and said unto him, **Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman.**

3 Then Jephthah fled from his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob: and there were gathered ***VAIN** men to Jephthah, and went out with him.

VAIN: reyq {rake}
empty, vain, idle, worthless (ethically)

4 And it came to pass in process of time, that the children of Ammon made war against Israel.

5 And it was so, that when the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah out of the land of Tob:

6 And they said unto Jephthah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon.

7 And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, Did not ye hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress?

8 And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, Therefore we turn again to thee now, that thou mayest go with us, and fight against the children of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.

9 And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, If ye bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon, and the LORD deliver them before me, shall I be your head?

10 And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, The LORD be witness between us, if we do not so according to thy words.

11 Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and captain over them: and Jephthah uttered all his words before the LORD in Mizpeh.

JUDGES 11:29

29 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of

Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.

30 And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands,

31 Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.

32 So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hands.

33 And he smote them from Aroer, even till thou come to Minnith, even twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.

34 And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter.

35 And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back.

36 And she said unto him, My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon.

37 And she said unto her father, Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my fellows.

38 And he said, Go. And he sent her away for two months: and she went with her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains.

39 **And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed:** and she knew no man. And it was a custom in Israel,

40 That the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year.

JUDGES 12:7

7 And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then died Jephthah the Gileadite, and was buried in one of the cities of Gilead.

I CORINTHIANS 2:2

2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

3 **And I was with you in weakness,** and in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

II CORINTHIANS 12:8

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

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.

II CORINTHIANS 13:3

3 Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

4 **For though he was crucified through *WEAKNESS, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.**

WEAKNESS: astheneia {as-then'-i-ah}

Infirmity, disease, sickness, want of strength, of the body; its native weakness and frailty,

JOHN 18:4

4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.

6 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

7 Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.

II CORINTHIANS 13:4

4 For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

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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 ourselves.**

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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. . . .**

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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.**

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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. . .

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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.**

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356. . . . **Get empty, friends. Get weak. Deny your own ability.** You out in radio--not radio, but out in--that hear these tapes, wherever they come, **empty yourselves out.** Pour yourselves out upon God's altar as a sacrifice.

Let the Angel come with a coal of Fire, fill that vessel with the power of Almighty God and get. . . **Then He'll make you strong; He'll give you grace to stand.**