THE CHURCH 137 RECONCILIATION THROUGH KENOSIS 14

HEBREWS 2:10

10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

HEBREWS 2:11

11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

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.

II CORINTHIANS 12:8

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

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.

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

224.....O death said, "But I'll get you in a few minutes." And the grave said, "I'll mold you out yonder."

He said, "O death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory?

I know I'm laying here in this Roman dungeon, bound in chains, my wrists and hands, and I--I got thirty-nine stripes across my back. I'm here with tears scalding my eyes until I can't see no more.

I can't see with my natural eye, but I can see a crown of righteousness laid up yonder. My ankles are wore out. I've fell off so much from the old molded bread they throwed in here, and the rats has run over me, and spiders and things, till I'm weak."

But he could stand in the face of death and say, "Where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory?" with chains shaking on his hands. Hallelujah. That's what we need. "Grave, where is your victory?"

The grave said, "I'll rot you, Paul."
He said, "But thanks be to God, I've already got the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

HEBREWS 11:32

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:

HEBREWS 11:33

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

HEBREWS 11:34

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.

HEBREWS 11:35

Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

HEBREWS 11:36

36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

HEBREWS 11:37

37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

HEBREWS 11:38

38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

HEBREWS 11:39

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

HEBREWS 11:40

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

HEBREWS 12:1

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

HEBREWS 12:2

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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.

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.

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

42 We try to make our weaknesses excuses. We want to tell how big we are, how great we are.

I think that's one of the things that I--God gave me the text for, was to get that out of our mind. See? There's little things that we do. And that's what we come to church for, is to find out where our faults is, and the things that we might better ourselves by.

If we come to church for any other--any other objective than this, I'm afraid we won't get too much out of coming to church.

We must come to find our weaknesses, find our bad places and our--how--see how little we are, and put our trust in Somebody that's strong.....

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

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'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.

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

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.

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

56...... 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

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......

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

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

110......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......

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

121...... 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......