

## GOD LOVES TO USE WEAK PEOPLE!

Dear Friend:

I have never before written an In Touch article or monthly newsletter article about our weaknesses. Not exactly a topic we wake-up in the morning thinking about! Our culture exalts strength and ignores or makes fun of weakness. An author would be hard pressed to find a publisher who would be willing to publish a book about weaknesses. God has a different view...in 2 Corinthians 12:9 Paul said: "But he said to me 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness...'" The context is about how Paul prayed three times for God to remove a "thorn in his flesh". Something that he felt that if removed, he could do more for God. God has a different perspective on our weaknesses, we think he only wants to use our strengths, but he wants to use our weaknesses too. Your weaknesses are not an accident, God deliberately has allowed them in your life for the purpose of demonstrating his power through you. He is drawn to people who are weak and admit it AND are humble enough to know they need to rely on him. By weakness I don't mean a sin or a vice, by weakness I mean: "Any limitation that you inherited or have no power to change".

God wants us to be content with our weaknesses (as defined above). First, they cause us to depend on him. The biggest roadblock to being used by God is ourselves. We prefer to cover-up our weaknesses; God wants to use them. Second, acknowledging our weaknesses prevents arrogance. Check-out the story of Gideon in the book of Judges. He started out with an army of 32,000 to fight the Midianite army, God whittled it down to just 300. The Midianite army was 135,000. Gideon and his army won (more about this on Sunday). Third, our weaknesses promote fellowship among believers. When we let our guard down, take off our mask and share our struggles we learn to trust each other more and relate to each other on a deeper level.

Our strengths can create competition, but our weaknesses create community. We must decide whether we want to impress people or influence people. We influence many more people when we realize God loves to use weak people who depend on Him!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Rose Farber, Clarabell Harlan (just had her 100th birthday!), Faye Cooper