

Warfare (IV): Blessings of Being Weak

I. The Blessings of Being Weak

If you were the boy with the severed left hand, would you experience these phenomena?

1. Producing an old self that complains

- ◆ You begin to constantly complain and say to God, “God, why did you let my left hand be severed? God, if you are loving, why did this happen to me?”

2. Producing an old self that has pity on yourself

- ◆ You might start constantly looking at your left hand, thinking, “Now I’m someone without a left hand. How will people look at me?” You may feel like such a pitiful person, expecting others to show me extra love. This teacher really doesn’t understand me, asking me to do such difficult tasks from the beginning. Don’t you know I’m weak? Always focusing on my injuries, always looking at what I don’t have compared to others, and then just pitying myself continuously.

3. Producing an old self that has suspicions

- ◆ You might feel like, “Why does this teacher only teach me one movement? He must look down on me. Even if I ask him to teach me more movements, he refuses. Look at others doing so many movements, but I only do this one.”

This boy didn’t feel useless or injured because he lost his left hand. Instead, he was determined to learn and didn’t focus on his injuries or deficiencies.

Sometimes we emphasize our past injuries too much. In reality, in Christ, we can all become new creations, and God can turn all our weaknesses into our greatest strengths and blessings. Do you believe that?

II. 1 Corinthians 12:18-27, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable

- ◆ Jesus Christ is the head, and we are His body parts. God has made us into such body parts or such body parts as His will, so we should never envy other body parts.
- ◆ Many times we feel that it’s okay for the church to be lacking this weak body part, but God says it cannot be lacking. The church needs this weak body part, why?

Because God says that regarding the parts of the body we consider less honorable, He bestows the greater honor upon them; for the parts we consider less presentable, God treated with greater modesty upon them. Moreover, God says that our more presentable parts do not require modesty, **but God gave greater honor to the part that lacked it.**

- ◆ Do you like honor? **It’s not something you obtain for yourself, but what God gives you, that is the best.**
- ◆ If you feel like you are lacking in many ways, have experienced a lot of hurt since childhood, and constantly feel inferior to others, then you should thank the Lord, saying, “Lord, I can receive more honor. I can receive more adornment from You. You say, ‘I can become more presentable than anyone else.’” Do you believe that what God says, He truly does?

So whether it’s the hurt you’ve received from your parents or from your marriage, you should

always declare God's words.

1. A person with low self-esteem is the most likely to hurt others.

- ◆ **A person with low self-esteem is infinitely self-centered**, always perceiving others as hurting him, not pitying him, not understanding him enough, not sympathizing with his weaknesses, while never realizing that his words and actions are constantly hurting those around him, especially the ones who love and care for him.

2. Thank God often for your physical or emotional deficiencies.

- ◆ This young boy didn't doubt his teacher, nor did he pity himself. He simply remained obedient. Because he lacked his left hand, he could overcome even the strongest opponent. **His weakness became the reason for his victory.**
- ◆ Do you believe today that this God is wiser than this Japanese teacher, more loving, and understanding? This counselor has carefully designed your environment, and the people around you are always there to nurture and build you up, so that you can become a victor in the kingdom of God. **You don't need to be someone who is constantly pitied; God can make you someone who blesses others.**

3. God's power is revealed in weak bodies.

- ◆ Dr. William Moon from England (blind)

When he went blind, he said to the Lord, "Lord! I receive this blindness as a grace from Your hand. Please enable me to use it to manifest Your glory, so that when You come, You will find satisfaction!"

This person was a vessel who knew God and gently obeyed Him. Through him, God invented Braille (the raised-plate script) for the blind, allowing millions of blind people to read the word of God and thereby be saved.

- ◆ A pilot who often flew helicopters to remote areas to distribute gospel literature had his entire face burned in a plane crash, becoming extremely ugly and disfigured. He knew that if it weren't for God's permission, this wouldn't have happened to him. He began visiting hospitals frequently to share the gospel. Those patients who wouldn't listen to others felt comforted and encouraged when they saw his face. They felt that if someone like him could still become a useful person, what reason did they have to pity themselves? His face became a blessing to many people.

This is why God says that the parts of the body we consider weaker are indispensable. This weak and injured brother doesn't need to say anything but has already become a source of comfort for others.

Do you know? This is the beauty and power that God has given you.

When you're hurt, do you choose to obey God and become beautiful, or do you choose to obey the devil and become its stronghold (obeying the devil will produce many old selves)? There are too many hurt people who don't understand the beauty of God's love, so they become captives of the enemy, sighing throughout their lives and continually hurting others.

4. The example of Jesus

- ◆ Why did God's Son need to come to earth and become the weakest part, where anyone could spit on Him, hit Him, and scorn Him? He suffered the most harm on this earth. Why did God's Son need this? Because this kind of weakness can become a comfort for many people and can become an inspiration for many people.

III. Romans 8:28-30, *“for those who love God all things work together for good”*

- ◆ **If you are self-centered, nothing will work for your good. Everything can trigger your old self, and everything can produce more of your old self.**
- ◆ If you love God above all else, nothing will grip your heart or trigger your old self. Why do we complain to God and sin when tempted? It's because we're lured and tempted by our own desires.
- ◆ *“For those who love God, all things work together for good.”* What good do they receive? He says it's to obtain His glory. **The glory of Jesus Christ is to live out God's glory in being whipped, persecuted, and interrogated. In the midst of all this apparent weakness, He appears as a conqueror, continuously triumphing over the power of the enemy. Furthermore, He bestows this victory upon us. It means not fearing persecution, injury, humiliation, pain, or death. He continually triumphs over all the weaknesses that the flesh may have, and then He imparts this victory to us. This is the coming of God's kingdom upon us.**

IV. One action we must continually practice is loving God.

- ◆ When we continually love God, continually focus on God, and long for God, we free ourselves from many unnecessary battles **because loving God holds immense redemptive power**, allowing us to break free from the old self and resist the temptations of the enemy.
- ◆ **We need to continually practice this action—loving God above all else.** When the enemy tries to grab your left hand, it won't find anything to grab because you don't have a left hand to give it. You won't feel the loss of anything because you don't have greed for things on earth. Instead, you'll continually seek more of His presence, His glory, and more experiences of His healing.
- ◆ We need to know more about the hand of God's love. No one can underestimate themselves; it's all God's amazing arrangement for us.

V. Adversity is often disguised as a blessing.

- ◆ The devil uses the temptations of the world and adversity to drive people away from God. In reality, adversity is the method through which God manifests glory. Strength and maturity in life come through many trials. Flowers in a greenhouse cannot withstand the harshness of the elements because they are too delicate. However, those who have endured trials have lives marked by strength. Whether it's illness, accidents, loss of loved ones, or theft, these experiences can ignite a deeper love for God.
- ◆ Adversity is a disguised blessing. **Satan uses adversity to drive people away from God, but God can also use it to mold us into the image of His Son**, to obtain His glory, and to establish an unshakeable kingdom within us. It all depends on whom you choose to listen to. If you listen to Satan, you'll generate many old selves, continuing to live a life of hurt and complaint, becoming its slave. We can also choose to listen to God, like the little boy who diligently learned the one movement the teacher taught him, ultimately becoming victorious.

VI. Conclusion

Fanny Crosby, a blind poet, wrote songs that lacked any trace of pity or sorrow; however, they were instead filled with brightness, joy, and glorious hope.

If we constantly focus on our weaknesses, we will become the dwelling place of the devil. But if we

don't pay attention to them and accept these hurts as grace from God's hand instead, then God truly fulfills His words, and bestows the greater honor and beauty upon such weak body parts.

So from today, you can start counting people who has hurt you from the moment you were born, and thank the Lord for these people. You can pray that, "Lord, please bestow honor and beauty to these areas, making me a useful vessel in Your kingdom, a blessing and help to others."

Warfare (IV) Assignment

1. If you were the boy with the severed arm and the teacher only taught you one movement, how would you react?
2. What position does someone who is weak, deficient, or injured (whether physically or emotionally) hold in God's eyes? Where in the Bible does it talk about "*the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable*" and how can God "*giv[e] greater honor to the parts that lacked it*"?
3. When we fight, we need to know who our enemies are. What negative emotions might arise in a person who is deficient or injured?
4. If we are deficient, have experienced much hurt from a young age, or constantly feel inferior to others, thereby leading to the emergence of complaining, self-pity, and suspicion, how do we fight and overcome the situation?
5. From Dr. Moon and Fanny Crosby, what mindset do you think a weak person should have to allow God's power and glory to be manifested?
6. There's one action we must continually practice that can help us overcome everything, break free from the old self, escape the temptations of the enemy, and avoid many unnecessary battles. What is this practice?
7. What benefits can people who love God receive?
8. Scripture memorization: 1 Corinthians 12:22-26.