

Weak Pastors

Throughout much of my ministry I have been contacted by churches seeking assistance in finding a Pastor for their pastor-less congregations. One question that I have often been asked regarding prospective candidates is, "What are their strengths and what are their weaknesses?"

A careful study of Scripture reveals the weaknesses of many of God's most faithful servants. There is something about serving the Lord, and the enormity of the task, that makes us feel so inadequate. And that is the way we should feel for as our Lord declared in John 15:5, "*....without Me you can do nothing.*"

- John said, "*He must increase, but I must decrease*" (John 3:30).
- David, distraught after the death of Abner said, "*I am weak today, though anointed king, and these men, the sons of Zeruah, are too harsh for me...*" (II Sam. 3:39).
- Paul said in II Cor. 1:8 "*We were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life.*"
- Of Paul they said, "*For his letters,*" they say, "*are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.*" (II Cor. 10:10)
- Again, Paul said, "*Who is weak, and I am not weak?*" (II Cor. 11:29)

Any true servant of the Lord knows that his weaknesses are many. That keeps us running to the One who can help us. The prayer of an unknown puritan preacher has been of great encouragement to me during times of weakness. May it also hearten you:

"O Spirit of God, help my infirmities; When I am pressed down with a load of sorrow, perplexed and knowing not what to do, slandered and persecuted, made to feel the weight of the cross, help me, I pray Thee. If Thou seest in me any wrong thing, any evil desire cherished, any delight that is not Thy delight, any habit that grieves Thee, any nest of sin in my heart, then grant me the kiss of Thy forgiveness, and teach my feet to walk the way of Thy commandments. Deliver me from petty cares, and make me a happy, holy person; help me to walk the separated life with firm and brave step, and to wrestle successfully against weakness; Teach me to adore, and magnify Thee, with the music of heaven, and make me a perfume of praiseful gratitude to Thee. Give me power to live as Thy child in all my actions, and to exercise sonship by conquering self. Preserve me from the intoxication that comes from prosperity. Lead me safely on to the eternal kingdom, not asking whether the road be rough or smooth. I request only to see the face of Him I love, to be content with bread to eat, with raiment to put on, if I can be brought to Thy house in peace."

Let us all remember that Paul said, "*When I am weak, then I am strong.*" (II Cor. 12:10) We must never underrate the strength of weakness!

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