

A FAITH THAT CAN TRANSFORM WEAKNESSES

James: A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't – Part 29
Rick Warren
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“. . . I don't have time to tell you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel . . . whose weaknesses were turned into strengths.” - Hebrews 11:32, 34

“Are you HURTING? Then you should pray. Are you happy? Then you should sing songs of praise. Are you SICK? You should call the church elders to pray over you and anoint you with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will save the SICK PERSON; the Lord will raise him up. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven. Therefore CONFESS your faults to each other and PRAY for each other so that you may be HEALED.” - James 5:13–16

HURTING: kakopattheo = having trouble, suffering

SICK: ästheneo = a weakness or an illness

SICK PERSON: kamno = one who has grown weary and weak

“Confess your faults to one another – your sins, slip-ups, false steps, offenses, and weaknesses – and pray for one another, so that you may be healed and restored to a spiritual tone of mind and heart.” - James 5:16 (Amp)

THE PROCESS GOD USES TO TRANSFORM MY WEAKNESSES

I. I MUST _____ MY NATURAL WEAKNESSES

“. . . Be honest in your estimate of yourself. Don't think you're better than you are.” - Romans 12:3 (NLT/NCV)

“. . . We too are only men! We're just human like you! . . .” - Acts 14:15

II. I MUST LEARN HOW GOD WANTS TO USE MY WEAKNESSES

1. MY WEAKNESSES SHOULD PREVENT _____

“To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you . . .’” - 2 Corinthians 12:7–9a

2. MY WEAKNESSES SHOULD CAUSE ME TO VALUE OTHERS

“Some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary.” - 1 Corinthians 12:22 (LB)

3. MY WEAKNESSES SHOULD MAKE ME MORE DEPENDENT ON GOD

“. . . I am with you; that is all you need. My power shows up best in weak people!” - 2 Corinthians 12:9 (LB)

Paul: “For when I am weak, then I am really strong. The less I have, the more I depend on him.” - 2 Corinthians 12:10b (LB)

“I have cheerfully made up my mind to be proud of my weaknesses, because they mean a deeper experience of the power of Christ.” - 2 Corinthians 12:9b (Ph)

4. MY WEAKNESSES SHOULD GIVE ME A _____

“God comforts us in our troubles, so that we can comfort others in any trouble with the same comfort that we ourselves have received from God.” - 2 Corinthians 1:4

Jesus to Peter: “. . . When you've returned to me, strengthen your brothers.” - Luke 22:32

III. I MUST OPENLY ADMIT MY WEAKNESSES TO CHANGE THEM.

• **VULNERABILITY IS SPIRITUALLY _____**
“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” - James 4:6b

• **VULNERABILITY IS EMOTIONALLY HEALING**
“Confess your faults to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” - James 5:16a

• **VULNERABILITY IS _____ ATTRACTIVE**
“We all stumble in many ways.” - James 3:2a

• **VULNERABILITY IS A REQUIREMENT FOR LEADERSHIP**
“If you are truly wise and understanding, you will show it by your good life and the deeds that you do with the humility that comes from wisdom.” - James 3:13

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up!” - James 4:10

PAUL'S EXAMPLE OF VULNERABILITY

“We speak with complete honesty, hiding nothing, sharing our true feelings, and opening our heart wide to you.” - 2 Corinthians 6:11

• **A TRUE LEADER ADMITS FRUSTRATIONS**
“I think you ought to know dear brothers, about the hard time we went through in Asia. We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God.” - 2 Corinthians 1:8–9

• **A TRUE LEADER ADMITS _____**
“There is nothing in us that allows us to claim that we are capable of doing this work. The capacity we have comes from God.” - 2 Corinthians 3:5 (TEV)

• **A TRUE LEADER ADMITS FAILURES**
“I am the worst of all sinners.” - 1 Timothy 1:15

“I have the desire to do what is right, but I just can't carry it out! For what I do isn't the good I want to do; No, I keep doing the evil I don't want to do!” - Romans 7:18–19

• **A TRUE LEADER ADMITS FEARS**
“I came to you in weakness and fear . . . so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom but on God's power.” - 1 Corinthians 2:3, 5

• **A TRUE LEADER ADMITS FEELINGS**
- 2 Corinthians 6:11

1. identify 2. arrogance 3. ministry 4. empowering 5. relationally 6. faults

使軟弱變為剛強的信心

雅各書：在人生困境中活出真信心—第二十九節

華理克牧師

24 & 25 October 2020

“…我沒有時間一一細說基甸、巴拉、參孫、耶弗特、大衛、撒母耳和眾先知的事了。…（他們）由軟弱變為剛強。”
- 希伯來書 11:32, 34 (當代譯本)

“你們當中有人在受苦嗎？你們就該為此禱告。有人歡樂嗎？你們就該歌頌。有人患病嗎？你們就該請教會的長老來，奉主的名為你們抹油禱告。出於信心的禱告能醫治病人，主會使你們痊癒。即便你們犯了罪，也會得到赦免。你們要彼此認罪，互相代求，好使你們得到醫治。”
- 雅各書 5:13-16 (新普及譯本)

受苦：kakopatheo=有麻煩、受著煎熬

患病：astheneo=軟弱或疾病

病人：kamno=疲乏和軟弱

“要彼此認錯，承認你們的罪、疏忽、失足、過犯和軟弱，並要互相代求，你們就得醫治，屬靈的心思和心懷也可重新定調。”
- 雅各書 5:16 (Amp 意譯)

上帝使我的軟弱變為剛強的過程

I. 我必須自己天生的弱點

“…不要自視過高；要誠實地看待自己…”
- 羅馬書 12:3 (新普及譯本)

“…我們跟你們一樣，只不過是人罷了！”
- 使徒行傳 14:15 (新普及譯本)

II. 我必須明白上帝如何使用我的軟弱

1. 我的軟弱應該讓我不致

“為了使我不至於因所受的啟示太大而自高，有一根「刺」在我身上，就是有撒但的爪牙攻擊我，…我曾三次祈求主叫這根刺離開我，但祂說：「我的恩典足夠你用…」”
- 哥林多後書 12:7-9 上 (當代譯本)

2. 我的軟弱應該讓我珍惜他人

“有些看起來最軟弱、最不重要的肢體，是最不可缺少的。”
- 哥林多前書 12:22 (新普及譯本)

3. 我的軟弱應該讓我更倚靠上帝

“…我與你同在，這是你唯一需要的，我的能力在軟弱的人身上最見功效。”
- 哥林多後書 12:9 (LB 意譯)

保羅：“因為我甚麼時候，軟弱甚麼時候就剛強了。我擁有的越少，就越是倚靠他。”
- 哥林多後書 12:10 下 (LB 意譯)

“我已欣然下定決心，要以我的弱點為榮，因為它們意味着，更深刻經歷到基督的大能。”
- 哥林多後書 12:9 下 (Phillips 意譯)

4. 我的軟弱應該帶給我

“在我們一切的患難中，他安慰我們，使我們自己能從神所受的安慰去安慰那些在各樣患難中的人。”
- 哥林多後書 1:4 (中文標準譯本)

耶穌對彼得說：“「…你回頭轉向我以後，就要堅固你的弟兄。」”
- 路加福音 22:32 (新普及譯本)

III. 我必須坦白承認自己的軟弱才能改過

● **真情剖白會屬靈力量**
“上帝抵擋驕傲的人，賜恩典給謙卑的人。”
- 雅各書 4:6 下 (意譯)

● **真情剖白是情感的醫治**
“你們要彼此認罪，互相代求，好使你們得到醫治。”
- 雅各書 5:16 上 (新普及譯本)

● **真情剖白在富有魅力**
“我們每一個人很多事上都會跌倒。”
- 雅各書 3:2 上 (中文標準譯本)

● **真情剖白是作領袖的必要條件**
“你們中間誰是有智慧、有見識的呢？他就應當有美好的生活，用明智的溫柔，把自己的行為表現出來。”
- 雅各書 3:13 (新譯本)

“你們當在上主面前降卑，他就會高舉你們！”
- 雅各書 4:10 (意譯)

保羅真情剖白的例子

“我們對你們坦誠直言，毫無保留，分享真實的感受，也向你們敞開心扉。”
- 哥林多後書 6:11 (意譯)

● **真正的領袖會承認自己的困擾**
“親愛的弟兄們，我認為你們有必要知道，我們在亞西亞省所經歷的苦難。我們都被壓垮了，難以承受，害怕自己活不下去了。我們感到沒救了，感到自己註定要死，也看到我們何等無力自救。但那是好的，因為我們就將一切交託在上帝手中。”
- 哥林多後書 1:8-9 (意譯)

● **真正的領袖會承認自己的**
“並不是我們憑自己能承擔甚麼事；我們所能承擔的，乃是出於上帝。”
- 哥林多後書 3:5 (TEV 意譯)

● **真正的領袖會承認自己的失敗**
“我就是罪人中最壞的那一個。”
- 提摩太前書 1:15 (新普及譯本)

“行善的意願在我裡面，卻行不出來。這樣，我願意行的善，我沒有去行；我不願意做的惡，我反而去做。”
- 羅馬書 7:18-19 (中文標準譯本)

● **真正的領袖會承認自己的恐懼**
“我到你們那裏的時候是軟弱的，既膽怯又戰兢。…是要讓你們信靠上帝的能力，不是信靠人的智慧。”
- 哥林多前書 2:3, 5 (新普及譯本)

● **真正的領袖會承認自己的感受**
- 哥林多後書 6:11