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Walking in His Victory

I can remember when I first started to hunger for God to use me. I had come to the end of myself. I wanted to mature in the Lord so badly that I would try anything. There were many opinions on what was the best way, and I tried them all. I would stand in my room and cry out for God to please use me. I had hope from II Chronicles 16:9, “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.” I knew that God was actively looking and searching the earth, going back and forth again and again, trying to find any one person to show Himself strong to. I would wave my hands in the air like I was trying to flag down a search and rescue plane. I was the one who was stranded and God was the one searching for me. I would yell out, “I’m right here God, I’m right here, you don’t need to search any further, if you’re going to pick anyone; pick me.” I would say to Him, as if in negotiations “I’ll do whatever you want, I’m willing to change, just pick me.” One of my greatest fears at that time was a question. If I were to lay down my life and begin to make sacrifices would He still reject me? What guarantee would I have that God would even choose me? I knew each weakness I had and my lack of ability. What if I wasn’t good enough? I thought that when I gave up everything and tried my very best that God would just give me a pitiful look and say; “Nice try but you’re not good enough.”

I had tried so many different courses to try and be different. I hated my faults; I just couldn’t seem to walk away from them. I was up late one night, I was young and already realizing I had a truckload of weaknesses. I couldn’t sleep and was passing through the television channels when on came a motivational speaker. He told me that I could walk into my potential and for three payments of \$59.99 it could all be mine. Well, I never purchased his program (I didn’t have the money). However I did what he said and mustered up enough strength to change. I quit everything, every weakness, every sin, every bit of laziness and from that moment forward I was going to be all I could be. It was the greatest twenty minutes of my life. Something good came on TV and I was back to myself, again. At this point I wanted to give up. It took all of my courage to stand up and I lasted only twenty minutes or even two weeks. I’d tried and tried to change and every time I just end up right where I started. It was as if all the effort and struggle that I poured into change was just wasted away.

The truth is that most Christians stop trying to deal with their weakness and they just settle where they are. They think, “This is who I am and if God wants to use me, then here I am.” We begin to fight for the right to stay the same and even make excuses for why we are the way we are. We want God to bless us for what we do and not for whom we are. It’s not long when we will start to compare ourselves to others. “See, I’m not so bad, look at so and so” or, “God will never use me, I must not be called like that person.” I too would be stuck in that same place if it were not for discovering the verse in II Chronicles. It proved to me that God was not looking for a qualified strong person; He was not looking for someone who was disciplined or who had it together.

God had a different standard to judge who He was looking for. Let’s look again at that verse, “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.” God is looking for you, He is searching and waiting for you. God will never reject you; it is **your heart** that will allow Him to move for you. Did you catch that? The only requirement that God is looking for is a heart that is loyal to Him. I have that and so do you! Your Father wants to show Himself strong on your behalf. It is at this point when I began to jump up and down in my room. If I gave God my heart and

yielded myself to Him, He would never overlook me. He won't overlook you either, even with your weaknesses.

The greatest misconception about my life and my calling was the training that I felt I needed to go through. What I thought was needed to be qualified for God to use me ended up being different from what He saw I needed. Make no mistake about it, each weakness, failure, sin and lack of discipline will be addressed as you mature into Him. It was just how I went about it that was different. I began to attack everything that was ugly in my character. I knew all my weakness very well. I would do battle with them each day trying to remove them from my life, some days were better than others, some years were better than others. After much warfare with my faults it seemed once again that I was at the losing end. I was right back where I started. **I was trying to get ready for God to use me.**

My emotions would go up temporarily where I would feel like I could change the world. I looked in the mirror and saw that I was more than a conqueror. The next morning I would look in the same mirror as the day before and see a different person. For the life of me I couldn't imagine doing anything for God. Every weakness, every failure of the past would echo repeatedly through my mind. When I would start to feel like a failure and get discouraged, I would just hunker down and wait. I knew that in about a week I would have at least one good day and think good thoughts about myself. I had no revelation on the love that God had for me. I didn't know that He wasn't waiting for me to get rid of my faults before He would fellowship with me. Here I was trying to be someone that He would accept and I was holding Him off. The very thing that I was doing to get closer to God was actually pushing me away from Him. God loves you; there is nothing you can do to make Him love you more. If you never did one thing for Him, He will love you as much as if you led a million people to the Lord. I'm no longer waiting for God to come He is already here. There is nothing I love more than to fellowship with Him. He loves to spend time with me just as He does you.

My first mistake was trying to earn His love; I was waiting for my perfection before I dared to even fellowship with Him. Somehow, I can't even tell you how it happened, but I just found myself busy. I was doing good work for the church and helping people. Then I just woke up and realized that I had switched busyness for fellowship. You see when you don't feel worthy of His love for you, then you try to earn it by doing stuff to please Him. To think if we would just stop and **let Him enjoy us** how much fun we could have.

My next mistake was trying to discipline my flesh so I could become a great man of God. I was trying to use my flesh to defeat my flesh and just when I would lift my hands in victory my flesh would take me down once again. It wasn't until I came to the end of myself that I quit trying to change by my own strength. It is through the Spirit that we overcome the flesh. Jesus had a battle with temptation, and He won. Jesus led captivity captive; the very areas in your life that frustrate you and defeat you have already been defeated. This is why we are told in Romans 6:14 that sin does not have dominion over you! The battle is already won; it is not our job to battle our weakness. We are to walk out of them and leave them behind.

The moment you were born again the hold that sin and weakness had on you vanished. You were free once and for all. I'm not in a great battle with my flesh or even with the devil. **I am free!** Ephesians 4:22-24 describes my path to freedom "that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

In epic battles with my flesh I lost over and over again. My weakness and emotions wore me out each time. I wasted months and years trying to win a fight that had already been won. Jesus knew I couldn't win on my own so He did it for me. I don't have to be strong to do great things for God. I was deceived trying to fight my flesh; all the while my victory is in the renewing in the spirit of my mind.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 tells us again that the battle is not you against sin. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." The devil loves to keep us busy. His tactic is to trick you into fighting the wrong fight. Our battle is not with sin, the devil or even our flesh. We fight a battle of victory that requires us to know victory. You don't have to sin or fail any longer. I know that God has great things for you, but do you realize it? The road to your victory does not require your strength or power.

When I tried to do it on my own I failed. I wanted to be a great man and to please God. Do you know that there are no great men in the Bible? There are men who have done great things, not because they were great but because they were humble. They never relied on their own ability or their strength to gain victory. No person can accomplish anything for God in their own strength in fact it is to the contrary. God is our strength not our own ability. God doesn't need you to be strong He simply needs you to be humble. We fight from a place of victory that has been purchased for us at the cross of Calvary. The battle has already been won and we don't need to win it again. We have everything we need right now to never look back and to never return to where we are. We can have as much of God as we would like, but we must first humble ourselves.

To humble ourselves means to rely on His grace as our strength. A humble person has no dependency on their own ability. We count on no one but Jesus as our source. He is our source of strength, victory... of everything. Ephesians 1:7-8 tells us that He has already made His grace available to us. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence," you have everything you need to put to death the deeds of your flesh.

As weird as it seems I often thank God for my lack of talent and ability. It meant that my only option to survive in this life was with His ability through me. Even if I was loaded with ability I would need to lay it down and allow Him to work through me. It is His grace that gives me all I need to let go of my past. It is in this humility of allowing His strength to be developed in me that I can do all things through Christ. A humble man will spend time in prayer and worship, allowing his inner man to grow in God. The world is full of great men who have done wonderful things but not in God's kingdom. In God's kingdom there is only one great man and He accomplished everything two thousand years ago. Because of this great feat there is now nothing that we can't accomplish through Him. Ephesians 3:16 says, "that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man," I came to the end of myself and learned to humble myself by praying in the Holy Ghost. "I can't do this in my ability so please God help me to learn who I am in Christ." It wasn't long that I learned that the devil was already defeated. Once I had strengthened my inner man above the voice of the devil I have never gone back. I can never take credit for change in my life. His grace is here to strengthen us and to give us courage. We can't earn anything from God, we can only receive it.

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