

## Called to Belong

### Power to benefit from Weaknesses

Power to EXCEL beyond your expectation

Key – have **BEST** – be the BEST - spirit of excellence.

Rebecca not only gave a drink but water 10 camels – 300 more

She was doing 300 times more than is required – chosen to inherit a great destiny – mother of great nation

How – be best - excellent spirit?

1. He has **chosen** you to excel

2 Chronicles 9:3-9

Queen of Sheba – **breathless** – spirit of excellence in Sol and servants.

Why God gave **best**?

Brings **honour** to country and God

Joseph – cloth of many colour – provoke? Jealous already – honour his father

**Best** time to prosper – in tough times

A spirit of excellence takes us beyond our natural

**limitation**

**Prisoner** – slave – hostile environment

– wrong **skin** colour – religion - within months – rose to top **JOB** – 2<sup>nd</sup> to king

A spirit of excellence releases our greatest **potential**

2. He **empowers** us to excel

Col 1: 16

For **by him** all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, ... all things were created by him and **for** him.

17He is **before** all things, and in him all things **hold together**.

If want **ma** to succeed – centre centre

If want **business** to succeed – make sure focus on Jesus

**Unfortunate** fact – you don't need God to be rich

– you do need God to enjoy your wealth

One guy has everything - All the means – Sol – but was crying out with frustration - vanity

Nothing wrong with all these – yet VANITY - then what's was wrong?

Sun centred instead of God centred No profit under the sun

Sol – one day – sun focus

**Emptiness** – frustrations – unfulfilled - revolving –sun

Don't **focus** on career – spouse - kids

– but secure in Christ – radiates with beauty – eyes sparkles w loveliness

Youth - God's handbook for success says

How many – prob – dealing w difficult people

How many **cannot** stand the weaknesses of:

class mates, bro, sis, boss, staff – worst if it is own spouse,

Major **cause** of rel prob – can't stand weakness

Many think ma **create** problem. True or false? Actually **REVEAL!**

The **weakness** is there all along

Past **hurts** – baggage

**Unmet** expectations

Bef ma – see boy like

Hollywood stars – fast forward 6 months

Suddenly this young man – w **flowers** at the front door –

replaced w pile of smelly underwear – corner

Instead of candle light dinner – half gallon milk spilt

Instead of **Ralph** Lauren and Chanel Number 5, he now burps

like overnite durian and release winds like worst armonia

Part of problem: **expecting human?** → How know?

**unexplainable** frust/anger

How do I know I am expect too much from spouse?

**Unexplained** anger and frustration at spouse ?

Think married **wrong** person - **myth**

**Myth:** God has prepared one and only unique – only one you should ma – perfectly match me

**Why is it a myth to believe that God has a perfect match for you?**

News – **never** be a **perfect** match – you married a sinner – he married a greater one

Fact – **guide** – kind not ma – kind to ma

Myth of The One and Only, that God does not prepare for you from the foundation of the world one unique partner that He's made and that's the only person in the world you should marry.

God does describe the kind of person He wants you to marry. God is very clear about the kind of person He doesn't want you to marry.

If you marry within these parameters, it will be a whole lot easier for you.

**Prob:** do make mistakes – choice – what if married **wrong** person?

**Bible way:** God can change you and if he respond – he can work a miracle

**Testimony** – lady – prob **husb**

– used to go to a church that focus on deliverance – session after session of deli – doesn't help – finally dry – came to RLC – touched by grace – classes – changed – **husb** saw the change – came to ch – believed.

How are you able to stand weaknesses of others? Not just stand - **benefit**

### 1. God does not **condemn** you, so don't condemn others

Romans 8:1

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**How can God not condemn us and still be a just God?**

Not easy – God saw all our weaknesses and not condemn?! Christ took all the condemnation!

Romans 8:16

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

How many have dads – found weakness – **replace** you

Servants yes – not sons! Same – friends

What does it mean – not condemn people practically?

**What does not condemning mean in our everyday life?**

**Allow them to be human**

Colossians 3:13

You must make allowances for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you so you must forgive others. NLT

Stop expecting **perfection**.

**Friction** will reduce

Key – accept others - accept yourself– God has accepted us

Ephesians 4:2

1 Corinthians 13:7

Hard on others – hard on ourselves **Let God have the time to work things out**

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time ...

**Why?** God is not **finished** with the person yet.

When God wants to make a **mushroom**, He takes six hours.

When He wants to make an oak tree, He takes sixty years.

Question is, Do you want to be a mushroom or an oak tree?

## Peter perfect example

First to boast never deny  
Jesus – bef a servant girl – 3  
times – was Jesus' effort a  
failure – new name – still a  
bebble – well one day – stood  
bef – 3000 saved

Late found – compromise bef  
part from the circumcison –  
went back to his old char –  
towards end – crucified –  
asked to be – upside down – no  
worthy to – same way as his  
master

### Numbers 12:1

Miriam and Aaron began to talk  
against Moses because of his  
Cushite wife, for he had married  
a Cushite.

Numbers 12:8 With him I  
speak face to face, clearly and  
not in riddles; he sees the form  
of the LORD. Why then were  
you not afraid to speak against  
my servant Moses?"

Why was **Miriam judged** so  
severely?

God has not **finished**  
working on Moses yet

If God can **accept** – who are  
you reject

He is my **ser** – God **protects**  
his ser

Is 54 – no weapon prospers –  
heritage – his r from me

Rom 14:4

**Focus on taking**  
**responsibility over your**  
**own weaknesses**

Gal 6:4-5

4 Each one should **judge** his  
**own** conduct. If it is good, then  
he can be proud of what he  
himself has done, without having  
to compare it with what someone  
else has done. TEV

Don't compare

If only – Letchmi – grass –  
**water** - effort

The grass is not greener on  
the other side of the fence and  
the grass is not greener on this

side of the fence. The grass is  
greener where you water it. Where  
you put forth the effort.

**Why is happiness a choice?**

Stop **blaming** others – making  
you **mad**

You are mad – **chosen** to be  
mad – happiness is a choice

Psa 23 – eat

**Why do we examine our own**  
**contribution to the situation**  
**instead?**

Instead – blaming others – see  
your **part** – how you **contri** to the  
problem

Focus how you **contri** to the  
problem – amazing how – simple  
words can work miracles – **I am**  
**sorry –sincerely** – not sorry lah

**Recently** – some one receive a  
very **nasty** email – critical  
judgmental – ask her – **Ans:**

**+vely – apologising** her part for  
the cause of the stress cause –  
**even** say positive thing –  
anointed **oil** – she **IMMED** apo  
profusely – SMS – phone –  
saved a rel

If – lost my **face** – **whats your**  
**priority** – save **rel** not your face!

Rel - Most precious things  
(Prodigal son's father) – bro sis  
spouse no father

**Some say** – **give** her nicely –  
reduced to her level

You **cannot** control – what  
people say – can control what  
you say – if talk like **animal** – you  
talk like animal – go **down** to  
their level – you are not that  
stupid!

Galatians 5:15

15 If you keep on biting and  
devouring each other, watch out or  
you will be destroyed by each other

Not only God don't condemn us  
in our weaknesses – he actually  
still blesses us

## 2. God **blesse**s you despite of your weaknesses, so be kind to those that are weak

Rom 4:6

6 just as David also describes the  
blessedness of the man to whom God  
imputes righteousness apart from  
works: 7 "Blessed are those whose  
lawless deeds are forgiven, And  
whose sins are covered;

8 Blessed is the man to whom the  
LORD shall not impute sin." NKJV

Not addressed to those who  
refuse to give up sinful habit but  
for those that turn to the Lord

See this illustrated in

**Abraham** – Gen 12

Genesis 13:2

2 Abram had become very wealthy  
in livestock and in silver and gold.

**Why** – unfair - unfairly good  
**Isaac** same problem:

Much said – Isaac sow – bef  
even sow – God says why

Genesis 26:4-5

4 I will make your descendants as  
numerous as the stars in the sky and  
will give them all these lands, and  
through your offspring all nations on  
earth will be blessed,

5 because Abraham obeyed me  
and kept my requirements, my  
commands, my decrees and my  
laws."

**Expect** good things to happen  
– esp in tough times

**Amazing** time in hist –  
wondered what happened

Top **economist** – can't predict  
what happen – 15 days

**Shaking** since the subprime  
prob – housing mrk collapse

- since they force give up  
settlement

1848 – 6 days war – only one  
war is a parallel – Joshua

Eze 37 dry bone – holocaust  
Luke 21:24

24 They will fall by the sword  
and will be taken as prisoners to  
all the nations. Jerusalem will be  
trampled on by the Gentiles until

the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

What's wrong? How to **protect**?

**What does the story of Joseph**  
**tell us about INCREASE in the**  
**midst of famine?**

**STORY** of Joseph (INC, removal of  
shame) – **Pict** of Jesus

**Loved** – of father – Jesus

Bro **rejected - hated** him – people  
thought: boast dream

Actually – hated long ago – father  
loved

**Jealousy** – **unreasonable**

**Why** did God give Joseph the  
dream?

**Save** them – the world

When you **see others being**  
**blessed** – rejoice – being blessed  
that you may be a blessing

Remember **first air-cond** – some  
one pass by – saw – words passed –  
pas message going to be cold as he  
is using air cond now –

God blessed him – so that wont  
give sleepy messages – benefit the  
congregation

If God does bless pastor w better  
facilities – rejoice – for your  
blessings

Joseph made **SLAVE - poor** -made  
**boss rich** - Portiphar pros –  
Pharoah pros

Jesus became poor

**Idea** problem – Gospel – creative –  
raise standing of women

**Falsely accused** – → PM

**30 Govt. - New name** – saviour – intp  
of dreams

**Ask** for bread – give **seed**

Jesus give us **WORD** - seed

When mention: don't give to **get** –  
**gratitude**

**RECOG:** even **seed - given**

The harvest is out of **proportion!** Tree  
**Unfairly** good

Never use your **last** dollar

Joseph **suffered** – God **caused** –  
bring bread to world

If not **sold** – falsely **accused** - prison – **if** not **prison** – dream wont fulfilled

God **didn't** send trouble - **cause**

**Prob: we don't see - overwhelmed**

*God can **cause** **be** stepping stone*

*39, Jacob came*

*Sometimes, we **overwhelm** by trouble*

**Jacob cried:** tien ah, **sorgam**

**Genesis 42:36**

Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!"

Jacob **didn't** know the one on the throne – Jesus – suffered to bring us blessings

Joseph – **blessed** bro – hated him

Jesus bless – denied him – persecute

**How to receive five times more blessings?**

Special **heart** for **Benjamin**

First **word** – God be **gracious** to you!

Benjamin receive favour

*Ben – 5 times more food*

*No need to stock food – rice*

Ben– pict of the grace generation

In grace – receive 5 times more

5 – why not 7

5 means grace – receive totally out of proportion to your ability and the natural circumstance

**Gen 45:10-11**

10 You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be **NEAR** to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and

all that you have.<sup>11</sup> **There** I will **provide** for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine."  
NKJV

**Genesis 50:15-21**

19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid.

Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

21 So then, **don't** be **AFRAID**. I will **PROVIDE** for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

**Rom 5:20**

But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more. NKJV

**People – sin more! People actually accusing Paul same**

**Romans 6:1**

1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase?

**Martin Loyll Jones – if no body accuse you – you are not preaching the way Paul preaches**

**God's grace is greater than our sins - turn**

*God does not leave us in our mess  
Our past does not stand in the way*

*Preacher: be sure your sin will find you out*

*Man born blind – ask whose sin*

*Neither – that God*

*Romans 6:14*

*Psalms 61:1-3*

**Hebrews 11:32-34** And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed armies.

**God can use average bunch – weak → superheroes**

**Weakness? not sins**

*Anger, over eating, laziness  
Nat **limitation** – can't do this that  
sickness, health, age*

**God can turn our greatest weakness into our greatest strength**  
**How** - come back next week