

Called to Belong

**Power to make
Champions out of the
weak**

How to deal with diff
people – cannot stand
class mates, bro, sis, boss,
staff – worst if it is own
spouse,

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

The **weakness** is there all
along

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

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

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

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

Sons

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

Allow them to be **human**

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

Don't judge – he has not **finished**
yet

Focus on taking **responsibility**
over your own weaknesses –
judge ourselves

– husb not doing his duty – focus
on your duty

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

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!

2. Not only God don't
condemn us in our weaknesses –
he actually still **blesse**s us

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."

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** –
air cond – pas blessed – happy
– giving works

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 – **blessed** bro – hated
him

Jesus bless – denied him –
persecute

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

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

Benjamin receive favour
Ben – **5 times more food** – **grace**
– out of **proportion**

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

How? Read of great man in
hist – politicians – scientist –
missionaries – Eric Liddell –
great inspiration - but idea –
God can only use such heroes
- read Bible different

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
... whose **weakness** was turned to
strength; and who became **powerful** in
battle and routed armies.

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

Some: **char** defects – **nat** limit:
age, edu, talents – felt same as we
do - can't do this that

Gideon was a coward – yet God
said,

"Gideon, you are a mighty man of
valor,"

David was struggling w lust yet
called, "a man after God's own
heart,"

and yet he struggled with lust
Moses Moses's greatest prob:
temper

Killed Egyptian
Threw the 10 commandments
Struck the rock

Yet he is the only other person
whom the Bible called - **mee**k
Only two in the Bible called **mee**k
Moses and Jesus

Abraham was called the "father of
faith," yet twice

twice he told his wife,
"Tell them you're my sister so they
won't kill me in order to take you."
That didn't show too much faith!

Samuel – little boy when God called
him –

Story – **ark** was taken
– assume just because has the ark –
vict – magical

Taken to Philistine – amazing – temple
dagon – next day – fell – next day worst
– head, arm, leg broken – over threshold
– as if running – horrifyingly sick
Suspect – God of Isreal – take a cart –
drown by two cows – just given birth –
calf put in a barn – set free

Nat – go for the calf –
instead – go straight back to
Israel – back to place it was
lost.

1 Samuel 7:12

Then Samuel took a stone and
set it up between Mizpah and
Shen, and called its name
Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the
LORD has helped us."

God is able to protect himself

Ebenezer **WAS** the place of
defeat. Ark was taken from
there.

God gave them victory in the
same place of defeat

The place of defeat can
be the place of victory.

Ebenezer means - Stone of
help – Christ – never again

– God helped them win over
Philistines – never attack
again – in times of Samuel

How ?

I. Be honest with our weakness

James 4:6 "God opposes the
proud but He gives grace to the
humble."

How - grace power – turn –
greatest strength

Humble ourselves

What is humility?

I think there is a lot of
misconceptions about the
definition of humility.

Humility is not **denying** your
strengths but is being **honest**
about your weaknesses.

Humility - Not: lousy – not
talent – deny what God
gave

Honest about weaknesses
– God can use

Opposite is **Pride** – **deny** it
– forfeit God's power.

1 Corinthians 2:3-5

I came to you in **weakness and fear**,
and with **much** trembling.

4 My message and my preaching
were not with wise and persuasive
words, but with a demonstration of
the Spirit's power, 5 so that your
faith might not rest on men's wisdom,
but on God's power.

Not ord person – greatest
apostle

Real **comfort**: Many times I've
felt very **unqualified** and
incompetent.

"God, You've got the **wrong** guy!"

James 5:16

16 Admit your faults to one another
and pray for each other so that you may
be **HEALED**. TLB

Why is it imp to be honest
with our weaknesses?

Healed – opposite is death –

Cook – dangerous: project image
– faultless and superhuman

Captain James **Cook**

Landed in Hawaii,

Native treated him as god

Did nothing to discourage that

image, accepted it

Left, run into heavy storm that
forced him back – felt cheated

Natives saw that – felt cheated

How can a god turn his back on a
storm

Kill him and destroyed the ship

What does being honest with
our weaknesses do?

No **face?** – have a sense of
humour about our faults – take it
easy

When people **point** out a
weakness in me, – take easy -
say – **thks** – your real friend –
enemy multiply kisses

Sure – have much **more**
weaknesses – feel free keep
telling me

I like to say, "I agree. In fact, I've
got some you haven't mentioned."

Agree with your adversary,

how much more with our friends

You always **gain** by not being
defensive

Open minded – if out of **tune**
– **who** say it – if you can call 5

– I will call 7 say I am OK –

robbed of opportunities:

Even if you are right, it is an
opportunity to develop **excellence**.

If you are wrong, it is a great
mirror.

Ever experience – times
forget zip trouser – put T shirt
on – on the reverse

If there is nothing you can do, learn
to work as a **team**.

– find compliment weakness –
team -NIEMAN - piano

Look for people with strengths
that **compliment** your weaknesses
– **music** – Charles Niemen

Build an effective **team** – w
people strong in area you are weak
in.

Have you ever seen a flock of
geese heading in a V
formation? **71% farther**

Whole flock can fly 71% farther
than if each bird flew alone

Each goose that **flaps** –
updraft for the one behind

When a goose **flaps** its wings, it
creates an **updraft** for the goose
that follows

While – those back **cheer**

The geese in the back **cheer** to
encourage those in the front

The one – got **tired** – go to
back of the V

As the lead goose gets **tired**, he
will rotate to the back of the V and
allow another goose to take the
lead position.

When one gets **sick**, or wounded
and falls out of formation, 2

2 geese will follow it down to
help and protect it.

Stay with it until it is better or
dies and then will rejoin

What can we **learn?**

Rely on the strength of others
when you are weak - team

Enc – cheering – not tearing
Go down to level of weak – watch –
care - protect

Accomplish so much more –
team than a solo – eg can't play
piano – get others who can
can't visit – counsel all, team up
with care leaders.

– wedding (usually only cell leaders
becos they are serving you – marriage
service ok – but not dinner - unless –
staff – real active – like a staff)

Not working independently – team
Not think – you always right – open
minded

Not about compromise but finding
better ways

How does your honest benefit
others?

Your openness to your struggles
to success can be an

encouragement

Luke 22:32

But I have prayed for you, Simon, that
your faith may not fail. And when you have
turned back, strengthen your brothers.

Jesus prayed – not fail

Even if fail – use that to **enc** –
sympathetic – others be restored

Our weaknesses make us **sympathetic**
to the weaknesses of others.

Rom 5:20

But where sin abounded, grace
abounded much more. NKJV

Romans 6:1

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

People actually **accusing Paul** – way
he preached – people sin more

How many **believe** the way I preach
grace – peo will think can sin more?

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

God's grace is more **powerful** 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

When people fail – one way to bring enc – share your past failures and how you overcome

Not always – failed still – OK – tempted to give up

How – tho great success now

– not always been that way

You have failed – still a

success – realise OK to fail

Tempted to give up – won't – saw you keep going

David's failure – didn't keep him – doing great thing

Hope – world: sin finished

This message – not

for those refuse – want to continue live in sin

Those prostitute came

Jesus – not asking bless them in their business –

struggling to give up

Committed to overcome

Open to share the problems in parenting and related to spouse

Share not just failures but how you ARE

progressing towards vict despite the failures

Jesus in GDN

– didn't tell disciples – Oh no I don't think I can make it – tell it to Father only – just pray for me

Story was released after vict won

2. God can make champions out of nothing

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things-- and the things that are not-- to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no-one may boast before him.

Spend a lot time w tax collectors and sinners – rejects and nothings – society give up hope

Last first – he knows – can turn

– easier? Needle – nothing impossible – harder – need more God's power

One PROBLEM we face as pas, esp from some organisation church – if a celebrity – singer – musicians or tycoon – came to Christ – immed – limelight Given - position and prominence

Jesus does not exclude the high and noble – he minister -

Necodimus came middle of night – to Zacheaus

Very frustrating from the pastoral perspective - we are here not to use people but to develop people

Frustrating – while still working on personal life – given position – without checking with us

While we are still working with the family life, marriage – given a position – without checking w us – no common sense and ministerial ethics

One such – wife – got to sell in Pasar

malam – man refused to work – given position – got the power – refuse serve in simple way and in Bible study

Ano – took years – to made ma whole

– given position – used – not finished yet

1 Tim 5:22

22 Be in no hurry to lay hands on someone to dedicate him to the Lord's service. TEV

Exodus 23:29-30

But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. 30 Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.

If we have not 'increased enough', we have a tendency to rely only on our own natural strength and forfeit God's strength.

Even if Richard Clyderman – if rely self – anointing can't flow

That's why in music – just becos – someone is can really play ... we don't put immed in any leadership

When we bypass the growth development process, we forfeit the opportunity to grow in a wholesome way.

Not given opport to grow – every area

Pride – don't think need come Kingdom classes

DOES God reqd – perfect bef God can use? NO

Often God works despite our weakness

Not totally remove weakness – he can even us jars of clay

Why is there a process required even to make jars of clay?

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-SURPASSING POWER is from God and not from us.

Clay – not only gold vessels but common simple dirty smelly can be used– but must be mouldable

Amazing thing is that God puts his greatest gifts in ordinary vessel

Even tho – ord vessels – still a PROCESS

First, maker kneads the clay into a dough

Like one making bread, beat tear press stretch ... the beatings remove the air ... pressing renew mind

– same way lots of 'air' to remove before God can put his greatest treasures in us

Kingdom keys – remove old thinking – kngdom Excellence – enlarge vision – Kingdom Grace – reply on God not self; tearing pride away ... and serving in a simple unassuming manner

Next, the maker put the vessel on a rotating wheel - personally shape

the dough into a beautiful unique artwork – you have a unique calling – turning round and round – perfecting the shape

Sometimes – we feel – going round and round

– for our good and excellence

And the maker – do the unthinkable – left the vessel (almost perfect) on a shelf!

God is more interest in char

and att than our work! Excess water got to be dried up. Normally 18 months!

If the vessel feel unfair, why others are used – maker say – ano 3 more months

Rebellious – bring down again – reshaped – process all over again

Process seems to be wasting time – boring – dry. ENJOY it by looking at Jesus – Malta

You can be busy like Malta – and God say – I don't know you (tho you had cast out demons, etc). not that you can't get to heaven. But in heaven God says – I

*don't know what you are doing
– you are not fulfilling my
purpose*

*Can be in lots of committees
and appear busy – but not
fulfilling God's purpose. Best
to be a Mary – sat at the feet
and looking and listening –
just one act - fulfil a
tremendous purpose in
preparing Jesus for his burial*

*Next is the firing **furnace**
- heat to 500 degrees- **why***

*Why – the vessels will be
able to stand heat- land of
promise*

*Even land of promise –
there are giants – the giants
didn't not defeat them! How
defeated?*