

## **We Minister in Our Weakness**

Many pastors and ministry leaders try to avoid any appearance of weakness. Yet most people harbor a deep sense of inadequacy. What are we as leaders supposed to do with our weaknesses? How can we get rid of these feelings? Isn't it healthier to have positive self-esteem? How can we lead effectively when we are so inadequate? What can we learn from our weaknesses? This message will give Christian leaders perspective and provide encouragement for the pressures and inevitable failures and disappointments in leadership over the long-haul.

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- I. Is it ok for a believer to feel inadequate and weak? (1 Corinthians 2:3)
  - A. Self-confidence and positive self-esteem are grossly overrated.
  - B. God specializes in using small things and weak people.
  - C. A long line of great saints agonized under their sense of failure.
  
- II. How do we respond to our weaknesses?
  - A. Three ungodly responses to weakness.
    1. We can deny our weaknesses and inadequacies.
    2. We can be discouraged about our weaknesses.
    3. We can sin through inaction, lethargy, or disobedience.

B. Two godly responses to weakness.

1. Some weaknesses we can remedy. Study, preparation, spiritual growth or self-discipline.
  
2. Best of all, we can embrace our weaknesses and let Christ work through them to give us strength

III. What can we learn from our weaknesses and inadequacies?

A. We can learn humility. (2 Corinthians 12:7-8)

B. We can learn to rely on God. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 4:7-11)

C. We can learn to handle failure. (2 Corinthians 1:8)

D. We can learn that our weaknesses point others to Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:3-4)

IV. We can celebrate and minister with our weaknesses, because God prefers to use weak and inadequate people who are surrendered to Him.

A. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6; 1 Corinthians 15:9-10; Hebrews 11:33-34