

## The Strength of Weakness

Most of us hate being weak. We would rather feel sufficient, competent and strong in life and for whatever God is calling us to do. And yet the reality is that most of us have areas of our lives in which we feel weak. It might be a life situation we find ourselves in; it might be some ministry opportunity that we sense God wanting us to pursue. We feel weak. But there's the good news – weakness is a good place to be because Scripture teaches that strength is found in weakness. It's a truth that is illustrated and taught throughout the pages of Scripture.

**Opening Question:** In what way, if any, did you feel weak this week?

**Read Judges 6:1, 6, 12-16, 33-34; 7:1-8, 16-22; 8:29**

1. What promises does the Lord make to Gideon (6:14-16)? Why would such promises be significant as Gideon led the people?
2. If you were Gideon or one of the 300 on the night before battle, how are you feeling? What's going through your mind? And what might a faith-filled night have looked like for you?
3. Though Gideon and his army were outnumbered 450 to 1, how did they express faith in God in their weakness?

**Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

4. What insights does Paul give us about strength in weakness?
5. What do you think it means that God's grace is sufficient in our weakness?

Brian said:

Have you sensed God wanting you to do something, but you've refused to do it because you feel weak? Maybe you've sensed God calling you to have that hard conversation with a person. You know it would be the most loving thing to do, but you feel weak and so you haven't done it. Or maybe you've sensed God calling you to step into some kind of ministry opportunity – becoming a Stephen Minister, leading a Life Group, working with the youth, becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, or sharing your faith with a neighbor – but you've kept putting off taking action because you feel weak. If you wait to feel strong, you most likely will never do what God is calling you to do. Step out in faith and take action. Trust God in your weakness.

6. Is there anything that you've had a sense that God has been calling you to do, but you've been hesitating to do it because you feel too weak or inadequate to do it? If so, what?

Brian said:

**Sometimes trusting God in your weakness means waiting.** There are some areas of weakness where the only thing you can do is cry out to God. You may want to jump in and try to control some situation or change it, but that's just not possible. All you can do is wait. But waiting and calling out to God is not doing nothing. **Sometimes trusting God in your weakness means taking action.** I mentioned earlier that the Israelites were not passive as they trusted God in their weakness. They rose up and met the Midianites. And as I mentioned before, I'm sure they felt great discomfort as they went to the battle – it was 300 against 135,000. If you have a sense that God is calling you to do something in your weakness, don't wait until you feel strong to take action.

7. As you think about the area of weakness that you are facing, does trusting God mean waiting or taking action? Explain.
8. How is it possible to actually rise up and take action to do something that God is calling you to do if you feel weak?
9. What do you feel or think is the main point of application from this study?