ARE YOU WEAK ENOUGH?

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Cor 12:9 (KJV)

A fellow missionary with Hudson Taylor to China said of him “I half despised him at first. A sickly looking, hesitating young man, no kicking power in his makeup much.” Later Hudson Taylor said, “God chose me because I was weak enough. God does not do his great works by large committees. He trains somebody to be quiet enough and little enough and then He uses him.”

I think I remember a lyric from a popular song back in the seventies or eighties that went something like this: “it sure is hard to be humble when you’re perfect in every way.” I would say that it is hard to be little enough for God to use when you are trying to get bigger all the time; trying to grow the bank account; trying to gain more knowledge; trying to climb the corporate ladder. We should always desire to do our best but we should look at our motives for these achievements; do we want notoriety? Is our goal to have more than our neighbor? Do we want to be the first to achieve a certain fete? It seems to me that these are goals that may require our best but they fail to glorify God. When we realize our weaknesses and seek God in these weaknesses he becomes our strength and thus should receive the glory for what achievements we may have.

Hudson Taylor knew that God had spent time with him to bring him to this place if life where he could faithfully serve the Lord. This often takes time and uncomfortable circumstances. The Apostle Paul had a thorn in the flesh that God would not take away. This thorn would be a continual reminder to Paul of his weakness. Through this weakness he could be strong for the Lord. It may sound crazy but these weaknesses in our life may be what we thank God most for at the end of life. They have been the very thing that has kept us close to God. When we come to the crossing we may be thanking God for those things that were most difficult in our lives; long fought addictions; years of disease; loss of income; or maybe a difficult divorce.

We may go to our graves without a real definitive answer to the why’s in our lives. When we get to heaven we may find out that God wanted us to lean on him more and more. He was training us to be quite enough and little enough for him to use.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram