

## Hebrews 11: Can I Trust God? Can God Trust Me?

### Part 9: Weakness Turned to Strength (11:32-35)

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**Weakness.** No one wants to be accused of it.

No one wants to be in a position of weakness. Every culture honors its winners and sidelines its losers, exalts the strong and despises and ignores the weak.

**But it is not so with God.** He despises our pride, not our weakness. His specialty is turning those who are seen by others and by themselves as weak into His most powerful servants through their trust in Him.

But the only weakness God can or will heal is the one we will admit and face. Then God loves to begin His best work at our weakest point.

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon (Judges 6-7), Barak (Judges 4), Samson (Judges 13-15) and Jephthah (Judges 11), about David and Samuel (1 and 2 Samuel) and *the prophets*,

#### Hebrews 11:32

**...who through their trust conquered kingdoms** (Joshua 1:1-8) administered justice (1 Kings 3:16-28), and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions (Daniel 6), quenched the fury of the flames (Daniel 3), and escaped the edge of the sword (2 Kings 6:8-23); **whose weakness was turned to strength**; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies (Judges 6-7). Women received back their dead, raised to life again (1 Kings 17:8-24; 2 Kings 4:18-37).

#### Hebrews 11:33-35a

Each of us have two kingdoms we must conquer—one kingdom is within us and the other is all around us. The Bible refers to them as *“the world and the flesh,”* or *“the lust or greed of our eyes and the boasting pride of our hearts.”*

Whoever is slow to anger is better than a mighty warrior,  
and the person with self-control is greater than he who conquers a city.

#### Proverbs 16:32

**“Whose weakness was turned to strength” (or)  
“from the place of their weakness God brought forth strength.”**

The Bible draws two conclusions about each of us in relation to weakness:

1. **We all have weaknesses**, areas that we are defeated by or blind to—or both. No one is immune.
2. **God loves to enter our lives at the very point of our weakness**—and starting from there, through our trust in Him, work a healing in us that turns this point of failure and insecurity into a great victory and strength.

**Gideon:** “The LORD turned to him and said: ‘Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?’  
“But LORD,” Gideon asked, “how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family!”

The LORD answered: “I will be with you...”

#### Judges 6:14-16

But the LORD said: “My strength is made perfect in your weakness...  
Therefore, when I am weak, then I am strong!”

#### 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

**APPLICATION:** How? The perfect Psalm for imperfect people: Ps 51.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation,  
and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.

#### Psalm 51:10-12

**We are only as sick as our secrets.**

You can open any room in your life to God and pray Psalm 51:10-12, and the God who knows how to handle our weakness will move in to rebuild that place of shame and inadequacy into a place of victory and strength.