

## March 22

**2 Corinthians 12:10 (NIV)** <sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Ryan did well in school. He excelled at math and was a very quick learner. He had trouble learning on his own, but he never shied away from a challenge. If someone showed him how to solve a problem, he could grasp the process and move forward on his own. When Ryan turned 20, he was eager to get a job. He wanted to work with animation or in IT (information technology). He had the skill set and the knowledge, but a major obstacle stood in his way. Ryan has autism. Instead of typing a formal cover letter for his job application, Ryan submitted the following hand-written letter addressed to "Future employer." The letter read, "I realize that someone like you will have to take a chance on me, I don't learn like typical people do. I would need a mentor to teach me, but I learn quickly, [and] once you explain it, I get it. I promise that if you hire me and teach me, you'll be glad that you did. I will show up every day, do what you tell me to do and work really hard. Please let me know if you would like to talk about this with me. Thank you."

When I read about Ryan, I thought about our tendency to hide our weaknesses because we feel they may diminish our standing with others or limit our opportunities. We may feel that those weaknesses tarnish our standing as a follower of Jesus. Thus, we spend great effort in trying to hide or compensate for them. Paul, however, took a different approach. He said he delighted in weaknesses because when he was weak, Jesus made him strong. "Owning" our weaknesses is a step of faith and maturity because we are counting on Jesus to make us strong. Our weaknesses draw us closer to Jesus because we can see how much we need Him. Instead of hiding his weakness, Ryan unashamedly acknowledged that weakness and promised to get help in overcoming it. His hand-written letter has over six million views, 172,00 likes, and offers from thousands of people from around the world offering to help place him in the perfect job. Ryan is scheduled to interview with several Fortune 500 companies. Truly, our weaknesses can become our strengths because of Jesus upon Whom we lean and trust.