

Are You **Weak** Enough?


by J. Sidlow Baxter

“Out of weakness were made strong.” Hebrews 11:34. Think of this in relation to Christian service. During the past century few biographies have influenced young Christians more than that of Hudson Taylor.

What was his secret? Here it is, in his own words: “The Lord was looking for a man weak enough to use, and He found me.” D. L. Moody aptly observed, “We may easily be too big for God to use, but never too small.” Job 28 tells about the way of the wind and the water and the lightning. The way of the wind is that of easiest motion. The way of the water is that of easiest coursing. The way of the lightning is that of easiest yielding. In other words, the wind and the water and the lightning take the line of least resistance. Even so, in human lives the Spirit of God always seeks the line of least resistance to the will of God. It is the absence of such resistance which gives the Holy Spirit His opportunity, and transforms weakness into strength. That is why Paul writes in I Corinthians 1:27, 28, “God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and weak things of the world to confound the mighty; and base things... and things despised, yea and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are.” You say that you are not made of the stuff for heroism and service? Then here is just the very army in which you can enlist!

The fact is that most of us are disqualified, not through weakness, but through a deep, subtle resistance in our human *ego* to the divine will. Before God can bless or use us as He wishes, He has somehow to break this resistance down. There are classic exemplifications of this in the Scriptures. See that strange Wrestler from the unseen world as He struggles with Jacob at the brook Jabbok. Through the years God has been trying to break down that *ego* resistance in Jacob, as in Abraham and Isaac, but now nothing will suffice but a crisis-wrestle in which Jacob is made a lame and limping man. See the resistance which had to be overcome in Moses before God could use him to evacuate the covenant people from Egypt. “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” “They will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice.” “I am not eloquent, but I am slow of speech and of a slow tongue.” “Oh my Lord, send by the hand (of someone else) Thou wilt send.” Or see the resistance in Gideon before God could use him to deliver Israel from the iron oppression of the Midianites. When the Angel of the Lord appears to him he reacts



with a protestation of “Oh!”, “If”, “Why?”, “Where?”, “But” and “Show me a sign.” When once our resistance to the divine will is broken down, *then* what wonderful things God can do with the weak and the despised! Moses, what is that in thine hand? – a shepherd’s rod, despised by the Egyptians. Yet that rod in the hand of a yielded Moses lays Egypt low, divides the sea, and leads Israel to liberty. Shamgar, what is that in thine hand? – an ox goad. Jael, what is that in thine hand? – a tent peg. Gideon, what is that in thine hand? – an earthen pitcher. Samson, what is that in thine hand? – the jawbone of an ass. David, what is that in thine hand? – a sling and five smooth stones. God never uses the unclean; but he does use the weak, the foolish, the despised. That opens the door wide to all of us – if “resistance” is gone. 

That’s **All** I Want!

by Joseph H. Hovsepien

A Sunday School child was asked to recite Psalm 23.

He stood up with confidence and began: “The Lord is my Shepherd; that’s all I want!” It may sound humorous at first, but isn’t that exactly what the psalmist meant?

Many people cannot understand how we can claim that Christ is sufficient for all our needs. Is He sufficient only for our religious needs or can He be all we want and need in every area?

Psalm 23 says, “I shall not want.” In other words, “I will be in need of nothing” that Christ cannot provide.

IN THE **PHYSICAL** LIFE

“Green pastures” are symbolic of prosperity and provision. He has made us physical creatures and knows our physical needs... and He will supply what we need.

“Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?” (Matthew 6:25)

IN THE **EMOTIONAL** LIFE

“Quiet waters” are sadly missing from our frustrated society. The world has never been in greater need of the psychological power of God and His Word. Troubled consciences, guilt, nervous disorders, fear, anxiety and every disease of the mind can find peace with Him beside the quiet waters.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippines 4:7)

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IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

The soul needs restoration. Originally perfect, created for fellowship with God, man has rejected God and gone his sinful way. Only Christ can change that and make possible the needed reconciliation.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation and uphold with a willing spirit.” (Psalm 51:10,12)

IN THE MORAL LIFE

“Righteous” means thriving in the way that is right; according to God’s will” (Nelson Dictionary). That is not easy in today’s society where everything and everyone is infected by the terrible disease called “sin.” In a world of changing morality, everything is open for change. There must be one unchangeable standard: “He guides me!”

IN THE SOCIAL LIFE

Enemies are inevitable in a person’s life. Even Christ had enemies. You don’t have to be bad to have enemies! But the Lord, our Shepherd, helps us to properly handle and deal with our enemies.

A successful spiritual life and effective witnessing in today’s society are possible only if we are filled with the Holy Spirit, symbolized in Psalm 23 by the anointing of the head with oil.

The need of pleasure and social fellowship is understandable and natural for the physical man. But spiritual fellowship which comes through the new birth brings such a deep joy and pleasure to those who experience it – something unknown to those who are satisfied with the shallow and temporary thrills of worldliness and the flesh. David’s joy is clear when he says, “My cup overflows.”

Satisfaction with life is reflected by the happy Christian who has gratefully received the “goodness and love” which have and will follow him throughout life.

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21)

IN THE CRISIS LIFE

“The valley of the shadow of death” is the price that all men pay for the privilege of life. Life and death go together. When we walk through this shadow and loved ones leave us, His comfort is with us. He walked this way before us and He knows where He is leading. We must “fear no evil,” knowing that He is with us.

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God; believe also in me... . No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.” (John 14:1,6)

IN THE ETERNAL LIFE

The house of the Lord is ready for those whose names are written in the book of life (see Revelation 21:27).

What is heaven to you? Do you believe in heaven? If yes, does heaven mean streets of gold, gates of pearl and walls of jasper? Does it mean reunion with loved ones and rest and joy for eternity?

More than anything else, heaven should mean the place where our Lord is!

“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it; for the glory of God did light it, and the Lamb is the lamp of it.” (Revelation 21:23)

So, all that we need He is and supplies. All other possessions that have not come from Him we neither need nor should have. The Lord our Shepherd knows all our needs... and that’s all we need! ☺

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JUDGMENT IS COMING

therefore repent and receive Christ as your Saviour or spend eternity in the Lake of Fire!



“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” Hebrews 9:27.



“God... Now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.” Acts 17:30.



“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.” John 3:16 and 6:37.



“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever... And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this Book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the Book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life.” Revelation 20:10, 15; 22:18b-19a. K.J.V.



The lighthouse pictured in our Newsletter was once a famous landmark in guiding ships safely to shore. The founder of Evangelical Tract Distributors, Mr. Orban Stout, wanted to use this illustration because it symbolized the printed Gospel message that can point a lost soul to salvation through Jesus Christ and provide a safe harbor in Glory.

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