

Your Inadequacy & God's Power

Fear Factor-4

Anytime we face something new in our lives we face the fear of inadequacy. This fear expresses itself when you take a look at your life and think, "I don't have what it takes. I don't have what it takes to be a parent, a leader, a believer."

Rather than focus on your inadequacies, God wants you to focus on His power, dependent upon Him and the strengths of other believers He puts into your life (2 Timothy 1:7).

Welcome

...Above all, love each other deeply

One thing that I really appreciate about our small group is....

Worship

...Offer God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess His name.

Read Jeremiah 9:23-24 and spend time boasting in the Lord! Ultimately, only God and our knowledge of and love for Him are worthwhile. God has chosen the weak, foolish and despised things of the world to reveal His righteousness, holiness and redemption (1 Cor. 1:26-31).

Word

...You have known the holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

1. Paul's "thorn" was either a physical or emotional limitation which caused him pain. *When was the last time you felt a tinge of fear because of some limitation on your part? Looking back, does it now seem humorous, or does it continue to be a source of pain?*
2. *How are you most likely to respond to feelings of inadequacy—by covering up, hiding out, or putting down others? By contrast, how should we respond?*
3. *Can you see God's power at work in some area of weakness in your life right now? If not, what weakness in your life might God desire to use for His purposes?*
4. *What other situations can you think of where God uses the weak, lowly and despised to build His kingdom?*
5. *What practical steps can you take to live out of an awareness of God's power rather than your own inadequacies?*

Works

...Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.

Many times we respond to our feelings of insecurity and inadequacy by keeping our life pared down to our human limitations—“This is what I can do...this is what I can’t do.” We get wrapped up in ourselves—and that’s usually a pretty small package!

Spend time praying for one another (be specific!), asking God to open your eyes “to know His incomparably great power for us who believe” (Ephesians 1:19).

Find some alone time this next week and reflect on whether there is an area in your life where you might be surrendering to the fear of inadequacy. Ask yourself, “*What am I attempting in my life that I could not pull off in my own strength, but that requires God’s strength?*”

Take courage remembering that God was able to use Paul, not despite his weakness, but because of his weakness.