

There's a place we can come to in the Lord where we've come to the end of what we can do. And I'm not talking about what we can do merely by our carnal ability, or by education. But even in our ministry, which is given us of God. We come to a place, by divine appointment, where we can do no more. The trouble with many people is, they have never recognized it.

“We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”
(Rom 15:1)

Now this I believe is the Scriptural mark of strength: It is not how much you can do, essentially; It's how much you can bear of the weaknesses of others. It is very satisfying to be strong in your own ability, in your own ministry, in your own experience. TO be the man with all the answers. But that really doesn't require much spiritual strength. It does require spiritual strength to bear the weaknesses of others. And I believe that spiritual strength is measured by God and the Scriptures, in proportion to the amount that we are able to support and bear the weaknesses of other people.

You see, this is the opposite of the Spirit of this age. The Spirit of the age is: “Get what you can for yourself. Let the weak take care of themselves.”

The attitude behind abortion and euthanasia – letting severely handicapped baby's die for example – is totally unchristian. We do not write the weak off. We don't even relegate them to an institution where we never hear about them or care about them again. One of the outstanding marks of Christians in the first century was: they cared for the weak, they cared for the sick, they didn't write them off. That's what really impressed the ancient world. They couldn't understand what made these Christians concerned about people who had nothing to offer. They were only a liability. But I have come to see that when you write off human liability, that's not strength, that's weakness. It's the people who are liabilities, the incapacitated, the infirm, the weak believers, who are the test of our spiritual strength.

Your cross is where your will and the will of God cross. Your cross is the thing on which you can die. It's the place where you can lay down your life. No one will take your life from you. If you don't voluntarily lay it down, you'll be in control of it. Your cross, dear brother, is not your wife. Nor, dear lady, is it your husband. Your cross is the place where you can make the decision not to please yourself. When I have had that inner struggle and made the right decision, blessing follows. I can minister. I cannot minister as long as I am pleasing myself. The old ego in me has nothing to give to anybody.

Your cross is where your will and the will of God cross. We have to see that as the opportunity; not the disaster, but the opportunity. You see this is the exact opposite of the way our natural mind works. It's just diametrically opposed to the way the natural man thinks.

“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

There is a weakness that comes from God which is stronger than men...

There is one thing in which the weakness and foolishness of God find there full expression and that is the cross. And in the weakness and foolishness of the cross, God triumphed over all the strength and all the wisdom of this world. And I believe God is asking you and me to learn that kind of weakness and that kind of foolishness. Never been an effort for me to be strong in my personality. And God has blessed and used the strength I have. But God has shown me, that it will only take me so far. I have seen many lives and many ministries stop at that point.

“I believe there are a lot of people who have been baptised in the Holy Spirit, speak in tongues, work miracles, who demonstrate little or nothing of the Spirit of Christ. And the mark that makes us gods (?) us not speaking in tongues. Nor is it working miracles. Nor is it preaching tremendous sermons. It is having the spirit of Christ. And I believe the Spirit of Christ cannot be separated from the nature and personality of Jesus.

Your strength isn't what you have and what you can demonstrate. Your strength is the ability you have to bear the infirmities of the weak. That's altogether different.

Now the Spirit of Christ was a Spirit that freely yielded. And I believe he is the supreme example of yielding.

Phil. 2:6

“Being in the form of God he thought it not robbery to be equal with God”

I really believe that the Charismatic movement is going to have to face this issue. You see, we are going to need to discern between true and false prophets, true ministries and false.

Miracles is not the decisive point of difference.

The mark that separates is the Spirit of Christ.

In Genesis 13 we read how Abraham yielded his inheritance to Lot; only after this did the Lord show him his inheritance.

Until he had been willing to yield God did not show him his inheritance.

As long as you hold on, and say, I am not letting go, you won't see what God has for you to see.

It's the yielding spirit, not the grasping spirit, not the grabbing spirit, not as long as you say it's mine and you can't have it, God gave it to me. You won't have the inheritance.