

CHIEF

MINISTRIES

July 2012

Living where we're at, as lovers of God and believing in your heart that you've accepted Jesus to come into your life; doing your best to live like He did, do you ever feel like it's impossible? Trust me, I have my moments of doubt too. As I lay in my bunk, talking to my heavenly Father, I tell Him how unworthy I feel, that the task is too big. That I fail every single day, that I'm all alone. In the Bible, in Genesis 32:10, Jacob was the first to recognize his unworthiness. *"I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant..."* Jacob had a number of experiences that finally brought him to a point of surrender to God and helplessness without Him. I feel that too! When I get to feeling down or oppressed or upset at my surroundings, having helped those around me only to be hurt, lied about by those I trusted, I am reminded that those things that are happening are being allowed to make me even stronger, even though at those moments, I feel my weakest. It's funny that at those times He seems to speak through me even more to those around me, sometimes by my actions alone. And I may not know it until weeks down the road when someone comes up and tells me. You see, it's when we are our weakest that He becomes strong in us. 2Cor. 12:9 says, *"My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness"*. Verse 10: *"For when I am weak, then am I strong."* Because we are on Christ's side we may appear to be weak and on the losing side, but as His seeming weakness was His strength, so it is with us! In Hebrews 11, men of faith in v. 33-34, "subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, *out of weakness were made strong*, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

John the Baptist felt unworthy and he got to baptize Jesus. That's like one of us getting to decide who's going to be the Warden! The centurion who wanted his servant healed didn't want Jesus coming to his house he felt so unworthy.

So how do we gain a little worthiness!

How fitting is Ephesians 4 here:

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, v2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, v3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. v4 There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call--v5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, v6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. v7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. v8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." v9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? v10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) v11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, v12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, v13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, v14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. v15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, v16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Eph 4:1-16 ESV)

This tells us how we are to live! And Paul too is a prisoner who reminds us to live in a manner worthy of the adoption, holiness and unity to which we are called. Ephesians 1:4 says, ... *"even as he chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love, He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ."* I was adopted off the Fort Peck Indian Reservation out of Wolf Point, Montana at 4 days old. I always had feelings of separation from my other siblings as there were 3 natural children of my adopted parents and there were two

other adopted sons who were natural brothers, but there I was, not blood to any of them. But I remember my mom telling me I was extra special because I was “chosen” by them and adopted into the family to be raised as one of their own. What a feeling! When I came to prison and looked around at all those that I felt were worthless human beings, I said to myself, “you don’t belong here, you’re not like these guys, you’re not a criminal,” and then I felt checked by the Holy Spirit and He told me, “Many are called, but few are chosen” - You’re looking at the chosen!” You’re no different than them, but how will they know about me if you don’t tell them? The devil has seen the great plan I have for these chosen and done everything he can to stop them from fulfilling their destiny – go and remind them to stir up the gifts I have given them. Tell them it is possible to live a good, clean, righteous life. Today, in a world where its constantly preached in society, “look at me, I’m the greatest this or that,” Paul tells us to be humble. To be gentle, patient and be full of love for one another. Tell me those aren’t a challenge, fellow prisoners. Live in peace! What? In prison? Do you know how many morons I wanted to slap just today? It goes on and on, having to deal with absolute knuckleheads, but He loves us all and wants us to do the same. But boy, is it hard to do so. But if we’re going to be obedient we must. In order to be counted worthy we have to! Thank God though it’s really not about our “worthiness”! It’s about the Lamb that was slain in place of us that is truly worthy - For us! Because in and of our self we just wouldn’t “cut the mustard”, as they say. But there is one who in the end will be found worthy. He took our pain and our shame and guilt and pain if we let Him.

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ^{v2}And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ^{v3}And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ^{v4}and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ^{v5}And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." ^{v6}And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ^{v7}And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ^{v8}And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ^{v9}And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ^{v10}and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." ^{v11}Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ^{v12}saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ^{v13}And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ^{v14}And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped. (Rev 5:1-14 ESV)

Eventually every knee in heaven, on earth and under the earth will bow and “every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father”. (Phil 2:11 ESV)

So I admonish you to keep on Men of God and just remember in the down times when you feel most unworthy, pray His worthiness would shine through you and use you to bring others to a greater love of Him and His will.

I am praying for you – The CHOSEN!

Chief

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Christ's

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