



## **1. Overcoming Weaknesses 23/7/2023**

**WARM-UP:** Can you think of contemporary Christians who have overcome huge difficulty and achieved great things for God? How did they do it?

(For example, Joni Eareckson – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVXJ8GyLgt0> or Nick Vujicic - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVy3p72aTCg>)

**THEME:** God can use us when we are at our weakest. In fact, God specialises in using people who recognise their weakness.

**Q1: What type of physical or academic weaknesses can seem daunting or even impossible to overcome? What sort of spiritual weaknesses can we have that make us feel inferior?**

Let's look at some of the people in the bible who felt inadequate. Consider some or all of the following examples. Think about what God said to each of them?

**Q2: From Exodus 3:9-14 and 4:1-5 what were the reasons Moses gave for not being good enough to do what God was asking? How did God respond?**

**Q3: From Esther 4:10-14, what did Mordecai tell Esther when she was too afraid to approach the king?**

We know also that Jonah ran away from what God wanted for him. Paul told Timothy not to be intimidated by his young age since God had called him.

**Q4: From Judges 6:12-16, what excuses did Gideon make for not being the right person? How did God respond?**

When God called Elisha, he was at home ploughing the field, in charge of the 12<sup>th</sup> set of oxen. He felt unworthy and asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

**Q5: From Numbers 13:27-28, 31-33, what fears prevented the 10 spies from wanting to go into the promised land?**

**Q6: Finally, from 2 Cor 12:1-10, what did God say to Paul about his weakness?**

**APPLICATION**

**Q7: What fears were shown by the people in the examples quoted. What was common in God's response to them? What fears do you have about trying something we find difficult?**

What can we do - firstly recognise our weakness, remember what God has done for us in the past, recognise that if God is calling us, He will equip us, then trust God and accept his divine empowerment.

- Do you feel God has been prompting you to try something challenging? What has been happening in your life that makes you feel this is the case?  
OR
- is there something you have been avoiding doing because you feel inadequate?