

Limitations Don't Have to Limit You

Scripture:

Romans 8:37 "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

Introduction:

We are all limited in some way. We may have a physical weakness of some kind, we may be socially awkward, or we could have a weak educational background. Some people deal with past disappointments that try to hinder the development of future success. Everyone is dealing with something. However, no one has to be limited when it comes to God's purpose and intention for their life. Limitations allow us the privilege of drawing upon the resources of God because we realize we need help.

I. Limitations can defeat us or challenge us to overcome.

A. Jabez wanted more out of life.

I Chronicles 4:9-10 "Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." ¹⁰And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested."

1. He carried the circumstances of his birth around with him every day.
2. He refused to accept the circumstances of his life. He declared, "I want more."
3. Not satisfied with a blessing, but he wanted to be blessed "indeed".
4. God responded to his prayer of this overcomer.

Proverbs 16:3 "Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established."

B. Demosthenes wanted more out of life.

1. 350 BC. He overcame.
2. While a child, he was orphaned.
3. He was such a bad stutterer that no one could understand him.
4. He felt like a failure, but he decided to overcome his limitations.
5. Went to hillside overlooking the ocean.
 - a. Put pebbles in his mouth and practiced public speaking.
 - b. He learned to project his voice over the roar of the ocean.
 - c. He became one of the great Athenian orators.

C. The Apostle Paul knew the secret of overcoming limitations.

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

D. Helen Keller surmounted her handicap.

1. Brain fever destroyed her hearing and vision before she was 2 years old.
2. Alexander Graham Bell introduced her parents to Anne Sullivan, who became her teacher.
3. Helen's later words: "I thank God for my handicaps for through them I have found myself, my work, and my God."
4. Paul said:

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

II. We must not fight against God but work with Him to be an overcomer.

- A. Lord Byron had a clubfoot – couldn't run – learned to swim – swam Hellespont, channel between Europe and Turkey.
- B. God will work through you where you are at.
 - 1. The choice to fight against God or cooperate with Him lies with us.
Romans 9:20-21 “But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?”
²¹Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?”
 - 2. Change may or may not come, as God sees fit, but we can still be victorious.
Romans 8:26-28 “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

III. We serve a good God who loves us in spite of our limitations.

- A. God wants to do good for His people.
Genesis 32:9-12 “And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee: ¹⁰I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast showed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands. ¹¹Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children. ¹²And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.”
I Chronicles 16:34 “O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.”
Psalms 34:8 “Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!”
- B. Learn to live in expectancy of the good.
Matthew 7:7-11 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”