

# Weak Men, Weak Excuses

PASTOR KEN SUTTON



***“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, ... are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty ... that no flesh should glory in His presence.”***

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Years ago, I ran into a man that I hadn't seen for quite a while. As we sat down, I asked him what he had been doing and what ministries he had been engaged in (he had been actively serving in his church when I saw him last). His answer went something like this: “I have been going to the men's ministry, and the pastor asked if I would be a men's small group leader, but I said no.” So I asked him, “Are you busy at work right now?” His reply? “No, I lost my job. I just said no to leading a small group because I thought that none of the men could relate to me since I am single and currently jobless.”

I understood what this brother was going through, but I had to tell him to rethink his decision—seriously. Every person can empathize, to some degree, with a man who is out of work. For many men, being jobless quickly leads to depression. Men need to work. Christian men also have a need to serve their Master. That is why I was so upfront with my brother; I knew the value that he could bring to that small group. God was providing a way out of his funk (by being a blessing to others), but he wanted no part of it.

I am hearing variations of this scenario over and over again. Men deferring. Men refusing to take responsibility in the church. Men excusing themselves. Excuses come easy to us men because we are weak, and weak men use weak excuses. I speak from experience—I use them myself. As all men of God have

learned, though, making excuses doesn't mean we are excused. I am not excused. God will not allow that.

May I be so bold? Men of God need to step up and quit making sinful excuses that ultimately keep us from doing God's will. The church and the world are suffering because of it. What is the operative definition of an excuse? Telling God He doesn't know what He is doing when He calls on us to do His will. Yet God can relate to us and our excuses. Have you ever noticed how many great men throughout the Bible were visited by God, yet they excused themselves from His call? The Bible contains a long list of excuse makers, names such as Moses, Samson, Jeremiah, Jonah, and Peter. Multiple times in Scripture, we see God come to a man and tell him that he has a mission to fulfill. The man will then think through God's call to action, size himself up for the task, and then give God his best “reason” as to why he cannot do it (read Exodus 3 and 4). All of these men were ultimately used of God—but only after God, through various means, showed them that He meant business.

Why does the Bible depict such deeply flawed heroes in all their depravity? Because God only uses weak men; and it seems the weaker, the better. The only way that God can be glorified is by using imperfect and foolish men. That is precisely why Paul says in 2 Corinthians 11:30: “If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness” (ESV). Does that speak of you? It definitely does of me. We are in good company. My friend, rethink those excuses you have been throwing at God.

You may be asking, *If a man is self-aware and has a serious understanding of his limitations, isn't that called humility?* The answer is yes; a humble man is acutely aware of his weaknesses—but he still trusts God and His resources. The humble man knows all of His failures but still says “yes” to the call of God.

If God is opening a door for you, be assured that He will enable you as you trust in Him.

God is a master at dealing with our excuses. He has heard them all. But He wants us to know the difference between humbly understanding our limitations and making excuses for them. The Lord is looking for

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men to acknowledge their weakness and move forward into the call that He has on their lives. So, when a friend gives you an excuse as to why He cannot minister to other needy men, don't pat him on the back and help him wallow in his pity. Encourage him to trust in the almighty power of God. ✨

***And [the Lord] said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ... For when I am weak, then I am strong.***

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

*Ken is the men's ministry pastor at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa, CA. Throughout the last 20 years of ministry, the Suttons have planted churches in Romania, England, and Washington state. He and his wife, Lynn, have three children. You can read more from Ken at his blog: [pluckedfromthefire.com](http://pluckedfromthefire.com).*