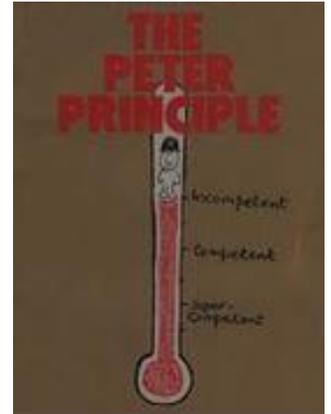


## God's Peter Principle

We have all heard of the “Peter Principle. The on-line dictionary definition of it says, “The **Peter Principle** is a concept in management developed by Laurence J. Peter, which observes that people in a hierarchy tend to rise to their ‘level of incompetence’. In other words, an employee is promoted based on their success in previous jobs until they reach a level at which they are no longer competent, as skills in one job do not necessarily translate to another.”

God certainly seemed to use this principle as He selected people for key roles. Peter was selected to lead the disciples, yet he had failed Jesus the most during His arrest and crucifixion. In essence Jesus implied that because Peter was the biggest failure he had the potential to be the best leader. Because of Grace, Peter was forgiven and set free to be both bold and humble and a fearless leader.

Pastor and author Timothy Keller also wrote about the “Gideon Principle,” when God chooses the weakest and least likely to succeed, so that all glory is clearly God’s and is not the result of our own abilities. “*Pardon me, my lord,*” Gideon replied, “*but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.*” The LORD answered, “*I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive*” (Judges 6:15-16). Gideon did just that. There are many examples in the Bible of God choosing the most unlikely people to play key roles. The chosen disciples did not come from religious backgrounds but from people with a heart. Actually, none of us are worthy to serve because of our own abilities. God’s Grace makes us a success.



God’s choices were the opposite of those humans might have made. *Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him (1 Corinthians 1:26-29).*

Think back to the birth of Christ. An angel came to earth to announce His birth – not to the scholars, religious leaders or members of royalty, but to lowly shepherds in the field. *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them ... (Luke 2:8-9).*

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

We are not limited by our man-made abilities to serve the Lord. God equips us for service in a way we could not do without Him. As a result, our service brings glory to the Lord, and is not for our glory.

Keller said, “The Christian’s identity is rooted in God’s grace and regard rather than in any worldly factors.” The Peter Principle doesn’t apply when God is doing the asking. Jesus forgave Peter and made him the rock of the church. God knows our weakness and makes us strong for His purposes.

**Questions:** Are you weak enough for God to use? Will you let him use your weakness to make you wise?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. When you ask us to serve you we often hold back, thinking we are not equipped for the task. But, we know that you will equip us for success if we rely on you to accomplish the task. Amen.