

Becoming What You Are Not *Weaknesses Become Strengths*

When I was a young boy, I had a childhood fantasy of becoming a star baseball player. I envisioned hitting tape-measure home runs and making dazzling defensive plays at shortstop. As the saying goes, I was a “legend in my mind.” As an adult, I know that I could have been a great baseball player only if this was what Jesus wanted for me. Jesus can enable any of us to do great things if they are part of His plan (read Philippians 4:13 below).

The motivation for this devotion came from one sentence in a devotional book that accompanies the movie series, “The Chosen.” The sentence that caught my attention said, **“Jesus makes us what we are not.”***

The lesson in the devotional book gave examples of how Jesus transformed a fisherman named Simon into Peter, unveiling in him the ability to win souls for Christ. If you remember, Jesus said that Peter was to become the “rock” upon which He would build his church (see Matthew 16:18-19). For those who knew Simon the fisherman, being the “rock” to build a church on was as much of a “stretch” as me becoming an all-star baseball player. Before meeting Jesus, Simon was an emotional guy, but Jesus turned his emotion into an intense love and obedience to Jesus. Before meeting Jesus, Simon was unstable. After meeting Jesus, Peter became a model of stability in an unstable, chaotic culture. Simon was changed from being a fisherman to Peter, a “fisher of men.”



“The same power that transformed the unruly fisherman is at work in all who believe. Jesus accepts us as we are, but He knows what we will become by His power, and He’s making us what we’re not yet.”*

I didn’t have the power within me to become a great baseball player. If Jesus thought my athletic abilities would make a difference for Him, He could have made it happen. Instead, Jesus has other ideas. Even though I was a person of faith, I was uneasy talking about my faith with others. For three decades I organized Christian Leadership Conferences but let others do all the talking. Now I express my faith through writing weekly devotions and have published two devotional books. To make that happen Jesus took me from merely an advocate of Christianity to a person seeking personal spiritual growth and then writing about it. I am still a work in progress with a long way to go, but I am making the effort for Jesus to use me as he sees fit. It takes trust that Jesus is beside me and will guide me as I do this. And He is.

How about you? What current weaknesses do you have that Jesus can turn into a strength that will help build the faith of others, and grow God’s kingdom?

Question: How can Jesus help you overcome your current weaknesses and turn them into a strength that will help boost the faith of others?

The Bible Says: *I can do all this through him who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).*

Prayer: Dear Lord. You know what we will become if we dedicate ourselves to serving you. Make us into the person you want us to be. Amen.