

Testimonial – Part 1

Josh McDowell

I. Introduction.

A. Review of the attributes.

B. When we say something about God we say something that is true of His entire nature.

II. Impact on speakers life.

A. God is all powerful.

1. This caused the speaker to turn from his own limitations to God's limitless power.

2. The speaker is the most unlikely person to be doing what he is doing.

B. The speaker's elementary and high school background.

1. His parents were poorly educated.

2. His grammar has always been poor.

3. His teachers forced him to use his right hand even though he was left handed - this caused a speech impediment.

4. The speaker grew up with an inferiority complex.

C. The speaker's college background.

1. He was a straight 'D' student - he was hardly passing - but he had drive and determination.

2. A teacher helped him to learn proper grammar.

3. He did not believe that he had any talents and was unusable because of his family background even though he did. He always felt left out because of his feelings.

4. He was accepted to Wheaton College because of favors his pastor had strung together.

5. Dr. Halverson gave an invitation instead of a speech based upon the calling of Isaiah to the student body at Wheaton to lay down their gifts for the nations. The speaker ran out of chapel in tears.

6. The speaker was told that he had a decision to make - he finally told God that he wanted to be used despite everything. He gave all his limitations to God - his stutter, his alcoholic father, his poor home life, his poor grammar - something that he never knew that he could do before.

7. Today God took his greatest weaknesses and turned them into his greatest strengths based upon His great power. He was able to thank God for his limitations and was able to be joyful because of it.

D. The results.

1. Has spoken to more high school students and more college students than any other Christian speaker.

2. He has written numerous books.

3. Every time he puts on a microphone he is aware of God's grace in his life.

4. God is not looking for ability but availability.

a. It is easy to take your talents and lay them on God's altar.

b. It is harder to let God take your limitations and use them.

E. God is greater than our limitations.

1. It is not His power that most doubt, but His love.

2. When one sees God's love as it is, our problems do not become too little for Him - this is when we truly become free.

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STUDY GUIDE

Part 1: What do you see?

1. What limitations did the speaker have from childhood that God had to overcome? On what basis today have these challenges clearly been surmounted?

2. Describe the process that the speaker went through to see value in his limitations.

3. What was the speaker's response to God's using Him? How did He view God differently?

Part 2: What do you think?

1. Why do you think that God favors using limitations and weaknesses over natural talents and gifts?

2. What do you find most surprising or outstanding about the speaker's testimony? Why?

3. How is it that a greater understanding of God's love leads us to a greater understanding of His power? Explain.

Part 3: What will you do?

1. What are your strengths and your limitations? How might God use your limitations to glorify Himself in the future?

2. Has God already overcome limitations in your life already? Why might not God correct all of our limitations? What attitude ought we possess regardless?

3. How can you share the victories in your own life to witness to God's love? If you cannot think of any victories, have you experienced the victory of personal relationship with Him? What is keeping you from making this your personal victory if it is not, and what is keeping you from making this the most important personal victory in your life if it already is?
