

Christ Community Covenant Church
Youth Sunday, May 15, 2016
Alex Mowery, speaker

Alright, so today I'm going to talk a lot about the future but I thought I'd start off what I have to say by telling a little story from my past. So back in sixth grade I was at my first track meet ever, Louisville Middle School. Somebody called up the guys' mile and I was just really excited to run it. I went down onto the track and there was some girl down there too. So I politely told her, "hey this is the guys' race" but she just didn't even react to me. So naturally I got a little frustrated and told her "hey you know this is the guys' race." I got no response again really. So here's the thing, it turns out that wasn't a girl, it was a very long haired guy. Ya, not my best moment. Here's the deal, I've got my flaws, we've got our flaws. By our very nature all of us make mistakes every day. 1 Kings 8:46 tell us "there is no one who does not sin."

Today I want to encourage all of you that although all of us on our own are often weak. God can enable us to do truly wonderful things. First we need to admit our sinful nature.

Paul tells us in Romans 3:9-18:

9 What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. 10 As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.

12 All have turned away; they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

13 "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips."

14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."

15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 ruin and misery mark their ways,

17 and the way of peace they do not know."

18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Most of what Paul says here isn't even his own words but direct quotes from Psalms and Ecclesiastes. The message of our flawed nature is mentioned throughout the Bible. But we should not be weary of admitting our shortcomings 2 Corinthians 12:9 tells us that God told Paul "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore [Paul says] I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

See there's the volta, the plot twist. We as humans, we are polluted by our wrongdoings but the power of Christ rests on all of us. Philippians 4:13 "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Now I know what you're thinkin', "Alex that all sounds real nice but I could really use some Biblical examples of people redeemed by God's power." Well you're in luck because I've got 3 three examples comin' in hot.

Let's take the man formerly known as Saul. After by miraculous events God healed Paul's blindness God gave Paul the ability to do incredible things. If we look at Acts 19:11-12: God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. In Acts 16 Paul turned and said to a spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment. Saul left behind his pride, embraced the power of Jesus and was able to do the incredible. But God doesn't just work through influential able bodied men, God can do extraordinary things through anyone!

In Genesis 17:15 God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. 16 I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her." See that is a crazy cool

honor, but look at how Abraham reacts! 17 Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" He can hardly handle it! The mere thought of him and his wife having a child makes him collapse in laughter. Sarah reacts similarly: **12** So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" And then God goes BOOM BABY and Sarah's pregnant. Sarah and Abraham were actual people who had the same reaction if any of us were 100 and about to have our first child. **6** Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." **7** And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." Sarah recognizes the absurdity of her circumstance and God uses this to show how he truly is the cause of this work.

Now many of us in this room are younger than 100, younger than Paul even and God says in the Bible if you're young you are completely and utterly powerless. SIKE! Even the youngest of God's followers can do extraordinary things through God's power.

The prime example of this is David. The youngest and highest achieving sheep tender of all his brothers. At this time a giant named Goliath is asking Israel to send its best warrior to come and battle him. All of David's brothers and King Saul are too scared to fight this Goliath character right? But after 40 days David knows he is supposed to go down and meet his brothers so he leaves his sheep with some shepherds and strolls on down to the battle. And as we all have probably heard a dozen time David decides to fight Goliath without armor or sword, just some rocks. But what he says when he confronts Goliath is incredible.

1 Samuel 17:45-47 tells us **45** David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **46** This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. **47** All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

This kid is unbelievable, his faith is incredible. He is so so so confident in the power of God he is willing to straight up ROAST a 9 foot tall giant. I love what he says so much I think we should read it again **45** David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **46** This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. **47** All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands." We have no reason to be afraid because God even though we are powerless in nature we can all do incredible things in Christ.

Now a while back I talked about how in response to the Gospel we should FALLUP. This stands for have faith, take action show love, spread life, pursue understanding, and commit to prayer. Now I want to offer a different perspective on that A, take action. I think a lot of the times we can become confused and think we NEED to take action, which in a lot of ways is true. James 2:20 tells us faith without works is dead. I would like to propose that we should be overjoyed because we CAN take action. Those things in the world that we know are against God, the suffering we see in the hearts of those around us, all of us CAN take action and really make a difference. For those of us going away off to college or staying right here in Arvada, thanks to God tomorrow, and the tomorrow after that, and the tomorrow after that can bring anything. Let's stare those "giant" problems right in the eyes, call upon the name of the Lord and do the impossible.

God has the amazing compassion and love to empower us despite our sinfulness.

Benediction/Prayer