



HOPE ROCK
C H U R C H
A T L A K E T R A V I S

Boasting in our weakness,

2 Corinthians 11:30 (ESV)

30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

If there ever was a statement that seemed counterintuitive this is it. Normally we boast of our strengths, the things that we are good at doing. Yet Paul says it's better to boast about our struggles, weaknesses and perhaps even our failings.

The reason Paul chooses to take this position is simple, yet profound. When we boast about our strengths, as much as they are God given, we run the risk of taking ourselves too seriously. We run the risk of inadvertently patting ourselves on the back and even in thinking that we have some redeeming qualities. Whilst that may be true, this can be a dangerous place.

When we make much of our strengths, triumphs or our successes, we open ourselves up to the greatest, if not, the chief of all the sins - Pride. We may even veil our success in a statement like "God gets the glory", and whilst it's true he does, what we are actually secretly reveling in, is what other people think about us. Often, what we come to find, is at the core of our boasting is a desire that is not seeking God's Glory but rather seeking man's approval instead.

So how do we avoid getting into this type of trouble? We take the leading from Paul the mighty apostle and position our stories of great conquests and of the great triumphs of our faith within the perspective and constant reminder of the areas in our lives where we are struggling or weak.

To be clear this is not to be confused with a "feeling sorry for myself" attitude, but rather a good, earnest dose of reality. One that says, yes, I may be used by God and yes, I may be doing great things for His kingdom, but I am to never forget that whatever it is, "I" am doing, is not because "I" can, but rather because He can.

At the end of the day, the only redemptive quality we truly have, is that we are all trophies of God's grace. It's true for us today and no matter where God takes us and does in and through us in the future, it will be true for us then.

Let us walk this walk with humility always, at the core of who we are.