

“Lord,” he said, out loud ... “I will do my best from now on to do good and to please You, but I will always need Your strength. I cannot do it by myself, for I am weak.”

The man heard again inside his head a Voice saying, “I will always be there for you.” The man smiled, knowing this was the truth, and knowing that ahead of him, by the grace of God, lay the opportunity to do good in his life.

“Son,” called the father, into the church. “You had better get ready; we will have to leave soon for the cathedral. You don’t want to be late for your ordination, do you?”

“No, I don’t,” smiled the man, as he got up and walked out of the church. He went over to his father embracing him saying, “Thank you, Dad.”

(from Stories of Love, p.153)

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“Thank you, Dad.”

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A Proudful Man



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and what is this weakness?
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A Proudful Man

The Man was sitting alone in the church thinking of his life. He thought of the good things he had done, and he thought of the bad things he had done. He then placed in his mind a set of scales, and on one side of the scales he placed the good he had done, and on the other, the bad. No matter how he tried, the man could not get the scales to weigh in favor of the good; the bad always seemed heavier.

He began to feel a little sad and, as he looked at his life, he became disappointed with it and with himself. He looked at his life, and thought, "I will never overcome the bad; it seems always to have been with me and it weighs so heavy on me. I feel it will break my heart."

A Weakness To Sin

As he reflected on his life, he remembered what his father had said to him as a boy. "Son, there will always be temptation in your life, and there will always be the opportunity to sin, for in your humanity, there is a weakness that opens us to sin."

He remembered asking his father, "What can we do to stop sinning, then, father, and what is this weakness? How can we overcome it?"

"Son," replied the father, "the weakness all people have is their pride. It is in pride, people's hearts are opened to many sins, and it is in pride many lives are damaged. To overcome pride is impossible in yourself. The moment you believe you can overcome your pride by yourself, is the moment your pride wins, and you are on the path that leads to certain defeat. It is when a person says, "I am weak, I cannot win," and the person turns to God, asking for His help, that by God's grace, the person begins to walk the path of assured success."

Do Not Rely On Yourself

"Remember, son, in yourself is weakness; in God is strength. In those moments, when you feel life is so heavy, when you feel you are being dragged into a dark hole you cannot get out of, in those moments do not rely on yourself or you may find you are dragged even further down.

"In those moments, turn to God and ask for His help, and He will help you; I promise you, He will. Son, try to remember this and turn to God, asking Him to help, and when you do, remember your old father who gave you this advice. It is the same advice my father gave to me, and it has saved me many times. It is good advice."

The picture of his father telling him this faded from his mind, and as it did he said quietly, "Thank you, Dad." The man then looked at the altar before him, and said out loud, "God, please help me; I cannot do it by myself. I have committed so many sins, and yet I've done so little good. Please help me, Jesus, to do better."

Then the man knelt down and began to pray over and over, "Forgive me, Lord ... a prideful man."

The more he prayed the stronger he felt inside. Now he saw the scales before him again. It was still weighing heavily on the side of bad, but then he saw a hand tip the scales in favor of the good, and he heard the words, "In My eyes, you are not as bad as you are in your own, and there is still time in your life to do much more good."

The man began to cry, as he continued to pray from his heart, "Forgive me, Lord ... a prideful man." The strength he now felt inside of him was so intense, he knew God was showing him that God was there for him to lean on. Understanding this, the man also began to feel a deep joy and a deep peace.