

GENIUS



Genius of Vulnerability May 1, 2022

Speaker: Pastor Robb Schmidgall

Scripture: Romans 7:15, 2 Corinthians 12:7

Sermon Overview: We often view vulnerability as a weakness, and it certainly can be. But Paul models how to use vulnerability as a tool that moves us towards soul wellness. In fact, it is a requirement in each of our journeys back to who God created us to be.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. **Discover your unique genius:** Everyone has strengths and weaknesses. What are your perceived disadvantages or weaknesses? What are your strengths and gifts?
2. **Develop your unique genius:** We can learn to leverage our weaknesses by partnering with God to cultivate compensatory skills. What compensatory skills do you feel God might be cultivating in you?
3. **Deploy your unique genius:** In what ways could your disadvantages be viewed as opportunities for your good and the good of others?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. We can all glean from each other's genius. Suffering is the seedbed of genius. Are the wounded places in your life still producing fruit? How can you cut off the plant and leave

the roots? How can the roots of the wounded places in your life serve to nourish the people that God has placed around you?

2. Vulnerability is only a weakness if it's not used as a tool to move us forward toward wholeness - soul and spirit. Where are you vulnerable? Vulnerability requires (a) honesty with yourself; (b) forgiveness; (c) recovered identity; (d) trusted circles; and (e) an outward purpose. Where was Paul vulnerable? How did he leverage his vulnerability to move him forward toward wholeness? How can you?
3. Reflect on 2 Corinthians, 2:10, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13. Where do you need to forgive others? Where do you need to forgive yourself?
4. Reflect on Romans 7:15 What keeps frustrating you in your life? What is below that frustration? Reflect on 2 Corinthians 12:7. Have you asked the Lord to remove "the thing" and the Lord has continued to allow it? What do you need to let go of and allow the Lord to use it as a tool toward your wholeness and perhaps a ministry where the Lord can reach through you and help someone else?
5. What are your: Triggers, Hideouts, Insecurities, and Narratives? Insecurities are the false stories you create about yourself. Narratives are the false stories you create about others.

Digging Deeper:

- Study the learning zone model (time marker 54:35 in the message). In your journal, walk through this model. What is one thing you can take action on in order to move from your comfort zone to growth?
- What happened during the Israelites' desert experience (Numbers 11- 14). It could have taken them 11 days to go through the wilderness. Instead, it took them 40 years. Now look at Jesus' desert experience (Mt 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13). How do these two pictures compare with your own life? How do you identify with a desert experience?

Practical Application:

- Make a Bible reading plan a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).
- Join our Main Upper Zoom online prayer group on Wednesdays and our new Upper Zoom Prayer Pods on other days. Main Upper Zoom: Wednesday mornings, 7:14am ET ncc.re/upperzoom. Upper Zoom Prayer Pods meet at different times and days during the week. Go to ncc.re/prayerpods to sign up.