

WHY NOT?

When facing a difficult and perhaps despairing challenge, ask yourself these important “why nots?”

- Why not ask God to strengthen me for the task?
- Why not invite God to help me turn an obstacle into and an opportunity?
- Why not petition God to transform adversity into advantage?
- Why not implore God to help me turn my pain into a vehicle for understanding and helping others?
- Why not beg God to empower me to change a tragedy into a glorious triumph?
- Why not ask God to help me forget what was and move on to what can be?

There are times when we will not know why certain things happen to us. The key is to cease dwelling on the “whys?” and focus upon the “why nots?” When we do that, we will experience God’s great victories in our lives.

Operating From a Position of Strength

Being a Christian means we are not to live as timid, hesitant, fearful, or weak people. "He is the God who makes me strong" ought to be permanently etched in our minds and souls. As Christians, we are to operate always from a position of strength.

And we can do this when we bring to mind these five facts:

- . The fact of God's presence. Sometimes we falter and feel lonely because we lack the assurance of God's presence. Yet the Bible repeatedly says that God will never forsake us. (See Hebrews 13:5.)
- . The fact of God's power. "I have strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me," declares Paul (Philippians 4:13). What was true for Paul in the first century is true for us in these times as well.
- . The fact of God's promise. Let us remember God's promises to help carry our burdens and to provide hope in the face of despair and light for our path.
- . The fact of God's protection. Although we cannot escape life's trials completely, God guarantees our ultimate safety. We are in God's hands and live in God's world.
- . The fact of God's purpose. Some people go through life with little or no purpose, merely existing from day to day. Our purpose is to bring glory to God through our lives. Thus we have a great and noble task: to help others and bear witness to God's great love for all people.

Out of suffering have emerged the strongest of souls;
the most massive characters are seamed with scars.

When God is our strength,
it is strength indeed.
When our strength is our own,
it is only weakness.

- Saint Augustine