



WEEKLY COLUMN in TORONTO
CANADA

Melvin University with Me



Weak parts and strengths

Please note that today's title is not a "fault and strength." At first, it was named as faults and strengths, but I have corrected as it is now knowing that it was not what I intended. What I'm trying to say here is that everyone has a weak point (shortcoming) from birth in some way. Of course, if you expand, you can use the expression of "faults."

We often have to make choices with the following two questions: "fixing my weaknesses? Or to develop more strengths of mine?" Which one is easier? Or you could ask a supplementary question: which is more beneficial? We often pay more attention to our weaknesses, or faults, and even sometimes grey areas. The same is true on to others. Their weaknesses, their bad past, or their disgrace, always seem to be humans to look at with a magnifying glass on other's fault. (Shameful areas that they want to hide)

Looking at it with a magnifying glass on to other people's bad things as for ourselves, that's what gets us. Why are we always struggling with our weakness, fault? Many people wonder if they can't throw it away.

To put the conclusion, first, it is wise to focus more on the development of the latter, that is, by discovering our strengths. The question is how to discover strengths, and how to further develop and maximize them.

From my personal experience: First of all, there should be an opportunity to be sure that there are strengths in us. I learned from my advisor during Clinical Pastoral Education that I had strengths in teaching and leadership. Once, I had the opportunity to give a five-minute lecture in front of the students I trained with, and our supervisor convinced me that I had that strength. Second, we should have the opportunity to use such a thing. If we bury it in the ground without taking advantage of the strengths heard from others, it will not be developed. We will have to be given the opportunity to take advantage of it, or create such an opportunity from ourselves. One management scholar also said, "Invest in people who are ready to do something." It means helping people those who are already "finding a place to use while developing their strengths."

The book, *Strengths Finders* (by Tim Rath, 2013) lists 34 strengths. Among them, there were three things that stood out to me: Discipline, Empathy, and Maximizer.

In this book, Training is "that you have to plan for yourself."

I think [self-discipline] is important for growing ourselves. It's a continual discovery that most people are only interested in a given training from outside. In other words, it seems to be the idea that "I've done all the homework given." Then, based on that, we have to create our own training curriculum that we need and transform it into self-disciplines.

In this book, Empathy means "reading the emotions of surrounding people quickly."

This is also one of the training contents used a lot in counseling, and there is also an expression, "I try to wear his shoes on to me." In other words, it means that we quickly know the other person's situation and concerns and sympathize.

In this book, it is said that Maximization is "excellence beyond the average by striving for it."

What is maximization? Maximization will be in our hands when we continue to find and develop our strengths to the fullest, like divers who jump into the water to find pearls in clams.

Looking at the above three things, it is ultimately something that we leader need to develop, and it is beneficial to make it effective and efficient in our individual lives and ministry.