

MAUPIN MESSAGE

Where I Am Weak, He Is Strong

There are two words I'm focusing on this year: authentic and healthy. I want to be authentic with everyone but I'm really referring to being authentic with me. When I'm authentic with me, I'm operating in a healthy way. I know how God sees me—through the lens of His Son, Jesus. Therefore, I am worthy, warts and all. I don't always act as if I truly believe that, however. When I listen to lies about how God sees me, when I cave to my need to be the best at whatever I choose to pursue, I leave no room for my own sinfulness, inexperience and errors—the reasons Jesus died and rose again—and I doubt God will use me. I bypass those lessons God taught me in 2020 (I don't know what I don't know; Proverbs 3:5-6 applies to me; Susie and I are a team). Bottom line: it's not healthy for me to be inauthentic with myself. I'm flawed—and yet, God can use me (read Hebrews 11) and gets even more glory when I'm available to be used by Him *because* I'm flawed. Whatever good happens is God bringing good (Romans 8:28), even through me.

I'm not certain you'll understand my inner processing and what happens within me when I'm given an "opportunity" or need to consider a proposal. I seem quite confident to most people. But I go through an inner process. Try this: I maintain a hyper-optimistic view of virtually everything and fight with a fierce counter-balance of perfectionism within myself that can leave me paralyzed. Think, "That sounds great" meets "I'm not sure I'm the one to do that;" alongside, "Can I excel/succeed?" & "Is this is where God is leading me?" I'm a complicated mess!

Now, most of the inner processing I do takes place in nanoseconds. However, sometimes it takes longer—especially if there's no decision deadline—even weeks as I work through the maze of lies Satan uses and God's truth. Experience shows that God usually has amazing, uplifting, encouraging results waiting for me when I yield to the Holy Spirit and "break the chains"—even when "no" is the decision. For "yes" answers, applying the "90-percent of success is showing up" theory helps. As FCA staff, I now have the opportunity to mentor two 9th grade basketball players attending historic Little Rock Central High School. It's been about 5 weeks now and I've already had the privilege to share the Gospel with a not-yet-15-year-old named Daniel! It's an amazing privilege to be a part of a life transformed by the Grace of God. I, however, was hesitant to get into the program as I processed my flaws vs. His power. Praise God He led me to "show up." Thanks for helping to make a way through your prayers and generous giving. Be encouraged—He'll use you, too, as you make yourself available to be used by Him. To Him be all the glory.

