



From Weakness to Strength: 8 Vulnerabilities That Can Bring Out the Best in Your Leadership (PastorServe Series)

Scott Sauls, Joni Eareckson Tada (Foreword), Scotty Smith (Foreword)

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(PastorServe Series) Scott Sauls , Joni Eareckson Tada (Foreword) , Scotty Smith (Foreword)

In this honest book, pastor and author Scott Sauls exposes the real struggles that Christian leaders and pastors regularly face. Sauls shares his own stories and those of other leaders from Scripture and throughout history to remind us that we are human, we are sinners, and we need Jesus to help us thrive as people and leaders.

For Christian leaders—both inside and outside of the church—weaknesses that are left unchecked can lead to a downfall that is both public and painful. They want to lead with character and live like Jesus, but **ambition, isolation, criticism, envy, anticlimax, opposition, restlessness, and insecurity** can get in the way. *From Weakness to Strength* provides leaders with tools to draw near to Jesus and stay encouraged and hopeful, even (and especially) when sin and struggle get in the way.

From Weakness to Strength: 8 Vulnerabilities That Can Bring Out the Best in Your Leadership (PastorServe Series) Details

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From Reader Review From Weakness to Strength: 8 Vulnerabilities That Can Bring Out the Best in Your Leadership (PastorServe Series) for online ebook

Dan Cogan says

Wow. What a blessing this book is going to be to the Church for years to come. It is a vulnerable exposé of the true state of a sinful heart. I am both encouraged and terrified at the prospect of what it means to serve Christ's sheep knowing full well I'm a flawed and sinful man.

I was also personally struck by my tendency to criticize the successful ministry of another under the guise of theological correctness, when in fact it is because I am envious of their platform.

Holy Spirit, please keep me mindful of my proneness to wander! And simply keep me.

Todd McGlinchey says

A must read for pastors. An honest look at struggles we face and encouragement on overcoming through God's amazing grace. Great relatable stories and illustrations.

Bob O'bannon says

Pastor Sauls does a good job tapping into the weaknesses that most, if not all, leaders wrestle with — the temptation to make more of our name and less of Jesus' name; the tendency to sometimes "view ourselves as victims instead of servants," which can lead to isolation and friendlessness; the way we often let criticism create resentment in our hearts; the ugly habit of rejoicing when others mourn or mourning when they rejoice, simply because we don't like others getting more attention than ourselves. How embarrassing. The truth for every leader is this – "the less we presume to act like kings, the more like kings we shall be." (197).

Much of this book seemed to be a repetition of clever quotes I have heard many times before. It's been trendy for a long time to quote CS Lewis, JRR Tolkien, and Bono, and they are all here in spades. Maybe that's why I was able to get through this book so quickly. At the same time, the reader encountering these ideas for the first time will likely be greatly encouraged by them.

It was also a little difficult to sympathize with Scott's ministry struggles — having to leave a thriving church in New York City to lead a thriving church in Nashville doesn't sound like such a bad deal. But, as the Proverbs say, every heart knows its own bitterness.

In the end, there is no question that this book will contribute to making you a better leader and/or pastor. Mastering this one idea would go such a long way: "We are not made to stand on pedestals. Rather, we are made to decrease, to become less, to make space for all the glory and honor and applause" to go to King Jesus. (99).

Dan Wolgemuth says

The book is accessible, honest and inspiring. It's also practical. Scott is a pastor to the reader and a mentor to the student.

Peter Yi says

Love Me Some Scott Sauls!

I love his messages, as I listen to them often as I drive, via podcasts. And this book spoke deeply to me in a pretty rough start of a new season, as a new leader, in a wounded church. Every leader and team/staff member should read this together. I'll go back regularly to this book to check in and see how inflated I've become as a leader, and also to see if there has been genuine growth.

John Elliott says

I generally avoid reading books from pastors who are in their 40's because I assume that the books they'll write when they are 70 will be better. But because Paul gave this to me for Christmas I decided to give it a go, and I'm glad I did. Some really good insights here about the kind of leadership God calls us to that is informed by some really wise people, not the least of which is Jesus himself. Would commend the book to anyone trying to lead with wisdom, character and thoughtfulness.

Jeff Skipper says

Helpful book on leadership, especially for pastors. Like his other two books, I'll be revisiting this one. My only critique would be: Since I follow his blog, I felt like I was reading much of the same stuff I'd read before. It's all great, but because of that, I found myself skimming over certain parts. Either way, a good, short, encouraging, easy-to-read, helpful book!

Steve Goodwin says

I picked this book up after perusing "Befriend," another book of Saul's written in the same vein as "Eats with Sinners." Although Christian leadership book lists are exhaustive, this should be at the top near "The Dark Side of Leadership." In "From Weakness to Strength," Scott Sauls writes a fairly short but comprehensive text applicable to both lay leaders and ministers. His tone is both compassionate and firm throughout the book, even as he confronts the reader with their own sin. Two important takeaways: you'll wish it was longer where it should have been more elaborated upon; and you'll need to be serious about change to implement concepts from the book. It is not overtly practical everywhere it ought to be, but the adept and committed leader can easily apply Sauls' ideas in their ministry. I am personally grateful to the author for setting me

back on track with a gentle push, just as Scripture says the church should.

Joshua D. says

Hands down, the best book on leadership I've ever read. Aimed at church leaders, but easily applied to Christians of all vocations.

For Christian leaders—both inside and outside of the church—weaknesses that are left unchecked can lead to a downfall that is both public and painful. They want to lead with character and live like Jesus, but ambition, isolation, criticism, envy, anticlimax, opposition, restlessness, and insecurity can get in the way. From Weakness to Strength provides leaders with tools to draw near to Jesus and stay encouraged and hopeful, even (and especially) when sin and struggle get in the way.

Sam Luce says

In this honest book, pastor and author Scott Sauls exposes the real struggles that Christian leaders and pastors regularly face. Sauls shares his own stories and those of other leaders from Scripture and throughout history to remind us that we are human, we are sinners, and we need Jesus to help us thrive as people and leaders.

David says

I was attracted to the book by the article the author wrote about his mentor, Tim Keller, upon announcement of his retirement. Keller exemplified humility and a man who led by example. I have been very put off by the proliferation of books and articles about leadership. Everyone wants to be a leader rather than just doing your job well and not worrying about who is watching.

This book is a breath of fresh air on the concept of leadership. Sauls recognizes that a true leader sets aside ambition and pride and leads through his own weakness and brokenness. The chapter on accepting criticism is worth the price of the book. He recognizes that some criticism is unfounded, but noted that all criticism, even if based on incorrect facts and assumptions, is an opportunity for self reflection and improvement. Sauls sees weakness and failure as strengths for a leader. He went through a time of depression when his career path did not go as he had hoped. However, he puts this in his resume as being an integral part of who he is. He closes the book with this statement: "In the end, our greatest influence may come not from our vision, our preaching, our leading or our achievements- but through our weakness."

Bill Pence says

This is Pastor Scott Sauls' third book. He is quickly becoming one of my favorite authors. His openness, honesty and vulnerability remind me of Scotty Smith's writing. Smith writes in an opening reflection to this book that "until leaders have suffered, and have learned to steward their pain, they don't really have much to offer."

The author tells us that Jesus offers us a radically different understanding from the world of what it means to

be a leader in regards to credentials qualifying a person to lead, what matters most, how success is measured, etc. In this book he looks through a biblical lens at what he refers to as eight common thorns leaders face: unfulfilled ambition, isolation, criticism, envy, insecurity, anticlimax, opposition, and suffering. He tells us that depending on how we respond to them, these challenges will either make us or break us as leaders. His desire is to help us live and lead from weakness to strength.

I enjoyed and benefitted from this short book, highlighting a number of passages. Below are ten I would like to share:

- Making much of His (Jesus) name is a far superior ambition than making a name for ourselves.
- Our character must matter more to us than our reputation.
- Although it is sometimes hard to believe that your work, done for God's glory, has enduring significance, it absolutely does.
- If you are a Christian leader, boss, or influencer, a time may come when your faith is costly to you and also to those whom you lead and serve.
- If Christian leaders and influencers and organizations do fall on hard times, if we lose favor and become a persecuted minority, it might actually mark the beginning of our truest impact.
- Even in a world that's increasingly hostile toward faith, the more heavenly minded we are, the more earthly good we will be.
- Rather than heralding to the world what they are against, Christians should instead be heralding to the world what they are for.
- It is especially important for Christian leaders to consider how they can lead in such a way that nonbelievers feel compelled to consider Jesus.
- The truest disciples of Jesus, not in spite of their Christian beliefs, but because of them, take initiative to love, listen to, and serve those who don't share their beliefs.
- In the end our greatest influence may come not from our vision, our preaching, our leading, or our achievements—but through our weakness.

This would be an excellent book to read and discuss with others leaders, whether they are in a church, business or non-profit setting.

Jeremy says

This is one book that I think most leaders would be wise to take the time to read and ponder. As Sauls works through eight of the most prevalent weaknesses that Christian leaders face he deftly applies the gospel to those weaknesses. I found this book to be an excellent resource to work through over the last few days of the year as I pray and think about my life in the year to come. Excellent book!

Porter Sprigg says

Scott Sauls is a thoughtful and wise man who knows what it's like to be a fragile human but also knows the hope has in Jesus Christ. His honesty and vulnerability is inspiring and I am so grateful for this book. Leadership is not easy and it comes with a lot of pitfalls. Sauls provides a healthy template for responding to these temptations and pains in a Christ-centered way. God works through our weakness to reveal his glory.

Andrew Wolgemuth says

I love this book.

Sauls focuses on traits of weakness and risk for leaders (things that can [and often do] inhibit and even wreck leaders) and shows how the Lord can use each in the leader's life and work. While it's not uncommon to hear someone observe that God loves to use weak people, I don't think I've heard or read someone examine what that means *for me*, and Sauls does this wonderfully - wisely and humbly. That is, it's one thing to say, "God uses weak people - look at sinful David!" (or cowardly Moses or lying Abraham) and another to say, "Here's what you can learn from disappointment...from envy...from suffering."

As Joni Eareckson Tada writes in the foreword, "I encourage you to read slowly and carefully the book you hold in your hands. It's filled with rich insights and sage wisdom. For Scott understands weakness. He resonates with people who have stumbled and fallen." Indeed.

(full disclosure: the agency I work for represents the author and this book)
