



## The People of God

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Hebrews 11:32-34 (NIV)

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But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:27 (NIV)

## 1. Own it

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

## 2. Offer it

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)

"I could not see a clear path forward. Conditions were changing so rapidly and so dramatically in the market and specifically around our property, I kept waiting for some clarity so that we would know what to communicate to Gateway, and even so that we would know how to seek God. Of course, we should have sought God looking for the clarity. We should have communicated more, not less, throughout the process. This felt like a profoundly personal failure."

Ed Allen

L: Father in Heaven, nothing is hidden from you.

P: You know everything about us, yet you love us anyway.

We are broken, wounded, marred, less than who we want to be.

We struggle with sin and selfishness,

we are frail and bear the scars of life in an imperfect world.

Yet your grace is sufficient, if we're willing to receive it.

As a church family, we confess opportunities missed, impure motives, conflict poorly handled,

Choosing pragmatism over faith, letting our voices drown out yours.

We've fallen short of who you've called us to be, and what you've called us to do.

So by your power, we commit ourselves anew to pursuing your purposes in our lives, and in our church.

We offer our brokenness to you, and ask you to use it for your honor and glory.

In Jesus name we pray, amen.