

# Building Bridges

Psa. 138:6

*“Building Bridges Via Respect for the Feeble”*

Psa. 138:1 I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for **thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**

3 In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, *and* strengthenedst me *with* strength in my soul.

4 All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth.

5 Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great *is* the glory of the LORD.

6 **Though the LORD *be* high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly:** but the proud he knoweth afar off.

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

8 The LORD will perfect *that which* concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, *endureth* for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Our theme this year is *“Building Bridges.”* A few weeks ago we began considering the construction of such bridges via RESPECT.

Respect – esteem for or a sense of the worth or excellence of a person, a personal quality or ability, or something considered as a manifestation of a personal quality or ability:

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/respect?s=t>

*“Building Bridges Via Respect Within the Family”*

*“Building Bridges Via Respect Among the Faithful”*

*“Building Bridges Via Respect Toward the Faithless”*

*“Building Bridges Via Respect for Faithful Truth”*

*“Building Bridges Via Respect for Deceitful Fraud”*

*“Building Bridges Via Respect for the First Responders”*



*“Building Bridges Via Respect for the Feeble”*

Psa. 138:6 **Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly:** but the proud he knoweth afar off.

**Nearly 1 in 5 People Have a Disability in the U.S., Census Bureau Reports**

*Report Released to Coincide with 22nd Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act*

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/miscellaneous/cb12-134.html>

We see the word *feeble*, used in 1 Cor. 12:22:

1 Cor. 12:22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more **feeble**, are necessary:

The Greek word for *feeble* is *asthenés*: it is also translated *weak* (12x), *sick* (6x), *weakness* (2x), *weaker* (1x), *weak things* (1x), *impotent* (1x), *more feeble* (1x), *without strength* (1x).

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G772&t=KJV>

**Original Word:** ἀσθενής

**Transliteration:** asthenés

**Definition:** (lit: not strong), (a) weak (physically, or morally), (b) infirm, sick.

**Literally, it means "without adequate strength" and hence "*frail, feeble (sickly)*."** <http://biblehub.com/greek/772.htm>

1 Cor. 9:22 **To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak:** I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

## **How to behave with disabled people: A new guide tells you what to do and what not to do**

Scott Jordan Harris – Monday 3 August 2015

- Sixty-seven per cent of British people feel so awkward around disabled people they either panic or avoid all contact with us.
- Forty-eight per cent have never started a conversation with a disabled person.
- Seventy-six per cent have never invited a disabled person to a social occasion and only 16 per cent have invited one of us into their homes.
- Saddest of all, only five per cent of people who are not disabled have ever asked out, or been on a date with, someone who is.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/features/how-to-behave-with-disabled-people-a-new-guide-tells-you-what-to-do-and-what-not-to-do-10436121.html>



# I. THE OBVIOUS CHALLENGE

## A. The Awkwardness

"The big message," Alex Brooker says, "is to treat people as people. Deal with who they are. Don't feel bad. It's human nature to be awkward. Just see that you're talking to a person. It doesn't matter what they've got up with them, you're still talking to a person. Don't let awkwardness consume you, because if it goes on too long it just becomes weird. And you don't want to be the weirdo in the office."

## What not to do:

- \* Don't be afraid to talk to us. We're just people.
- \* But don't feel you have to talk to every disabled person you see to prove you're not awkward around us.
- \* Don't be afraid to ask a question about our disabilities. But don't just talk about our disabilities. There is much more to us.
- \* Don't assume physical impairment also means mental impairment (or vice versa).



- \* Don't talk to us loudly and slowly – unless we tell you we have hearing problems.
- \* Never touch a disabled person's wheelchair or disability aids without permission: they're extensions of our bodies.
- \* If you feel truly awkward, don't be afraid to admit it. We'll probably laugh with you. The pretence that things aren't awkward only makes them worse.
- \* If you have a bad experience talking to one disabled person, don't let it put you off talking to others. You wouldn't stop talking to all able-bodied people just because you once had an awkward conversation with one.
- Don't worry too much. However awkward a situation is, we've probably been in worse.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/features/how-to-behave-with-disabled-people-a-new-guide-tells-you-what-to-do-and-what-not-to-do-10436121.html>

## B. The Awareness

Do you know what a Non-Verbal Learning Disorder (NLD/NVLD) is?

1 Cor. 9:22 **To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak:** I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

- Before we can effectively minister to anyone or any group of people, we need to have awareness for them and their needs, seeing them as the Lord sees them.

Mt. 25:39 Or when saw we thee **sick**, or in prison, and came unto thee?

...

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me. ...**

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: **sick**, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me.**

## II. THE OBLIVIOUS COMPREHENSION

Isa. 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;  
3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and **he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes**, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

### A. The Apprehension as a Deterrent

Apprehension = anticipation of adversity or misfortune; suspicion or fear of future trouble or evil.

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/apprehension>



## B. The Apprehension as Discernment

Apprehension = the faculty or act of apprehending or understanding; perception on a direct and immediate level.

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/apprehension>

Heb. 5:14 But **strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age**, *even* those who by reason of use **have their senses exercised to discern** both good and evil.

## III. THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMFORT

1 Thess. 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, **comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.**

## A. Our Past Calamity

Psa. 38:8 **I am feeble and sore broken**: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart.

Rom. 5:6 For **when we were yet without strength**, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

8 But **God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

## B. Our Present Commitment

1 Thess. 5:14 “...**the feebleminded, support the weak...**”

Mt. 26:41 **Watch and pray**, that ye enter not into temptation: **the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring **ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus**, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Rom .15:1 **We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak**, and not to please ourselves.

Psa. 117:2 For **his merciful kindness is great toward us**: and the truth of the LORD *endureth* for ever. Praise ye the LORD.

1 Cor. 13:4 **Charity suffereth long, and is kind**; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Eph. 4:32 And **be ye kind one to another**, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you**.

2 Pet. 1:7 And to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness charity.



## Conclusion

Deut. 25:17 Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt;

18 How he met thee by the way, and **smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.**

19 Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee *for* an inheritance to possess it, *that* thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget *it*.

2 Sam. 4:4 And **Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son *that was lame of his feet***. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that **he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.**

9:10 Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in *the fruits*, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but **Mephibosheth thy master's son shall eat bread alway at my table.** Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. ...

13 So **Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table;** and was **lame on both his feet.**

Titus 3:1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, *but* gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

3 **For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.**

4 But after that **the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,**

5 **Not by works of righteousness which we have done,** but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

6 Which he shed on us abundantly through **Jesus Christ our Saviour;**

7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

8 *This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that **they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable unto men.