

I struck out a lot when I played whiffle ball with other neighborhood kids in our family's backyard. God gave me many gifts, by eye-to-hand coordination at home plate was not among them.

Some people dwell too much on gifts they lack. They wish they could play piano, tell jokes, repair plumbing, or make better friends. Sometimes envy deflates us; we dwell on what we lack instead of what we have.

St. Paul opens his first letter to the Christians at Corinth with a reminder of what they have. Apparently, they dwelled too much on what they lacked. Many of them weren't very smart. They didn't have much power. They didn't have a noble family. What they had was envy.

But the Corinthian Christians had much more. They had faith. They had Christ. They had God's wisdom. They had redemption. They had all of this even though they lacked other enviable traits.

God did not limit Christianity to those with great gifts. God chose the lowly. In that way, no one could boast, "God chose me because I am wise." Or, "God chose me because I am strong." God chose the lowly to correct the thinking of the mighty. The Corinthians could boast in their own gifts. They could only boast in God.

I still can't swing a bat and hit a ball. But Christ has chosen me for his household. If I succeed in other areas, I cannot boast in myself. All my boast is in Christ.