

*Lead Out of Weakness
and Vulnerability*

Emotionally Healthy Discipleship 9

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

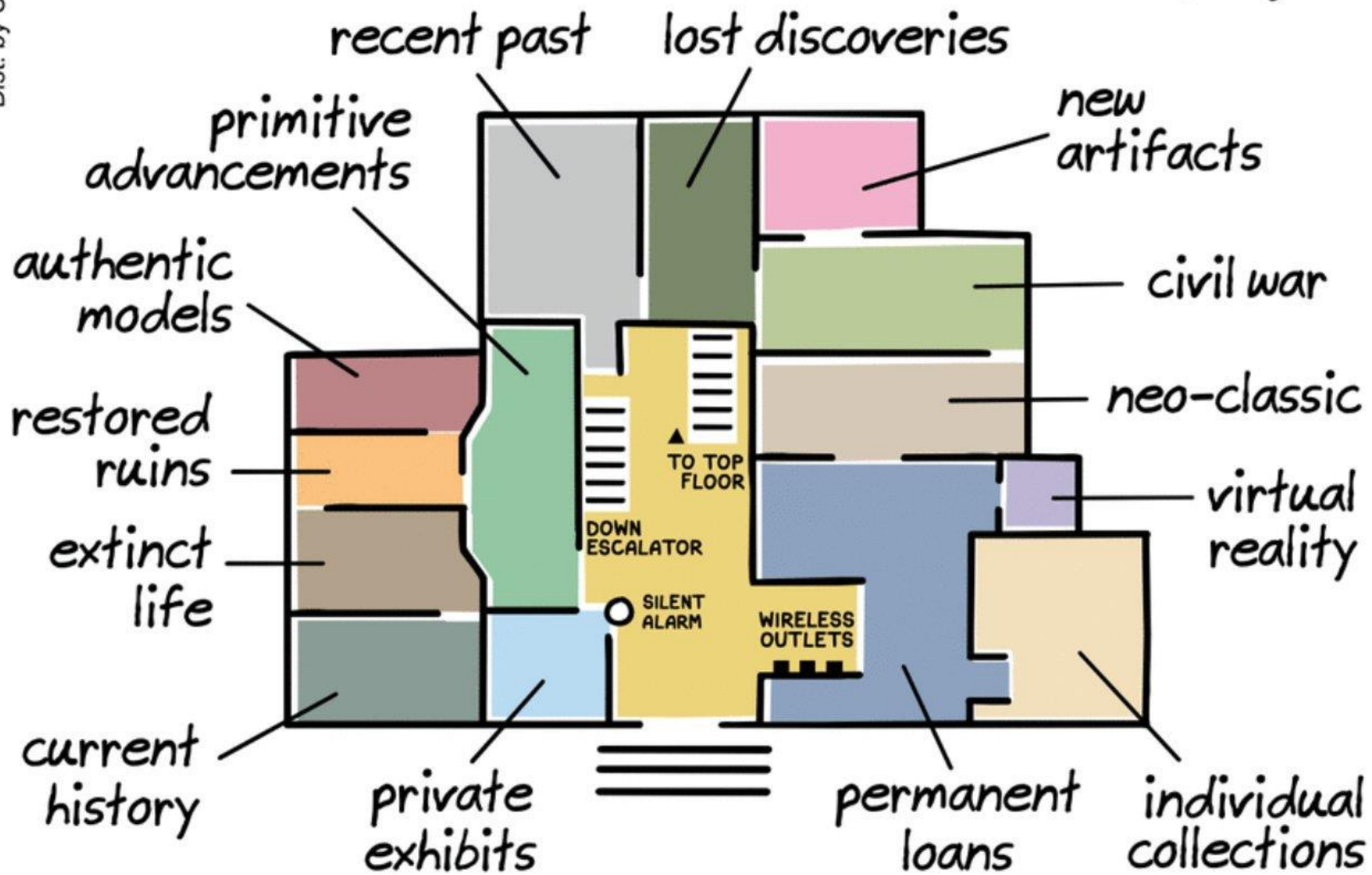
Pastor Ken Tang-Quan

Palos Verdes Baptist Church

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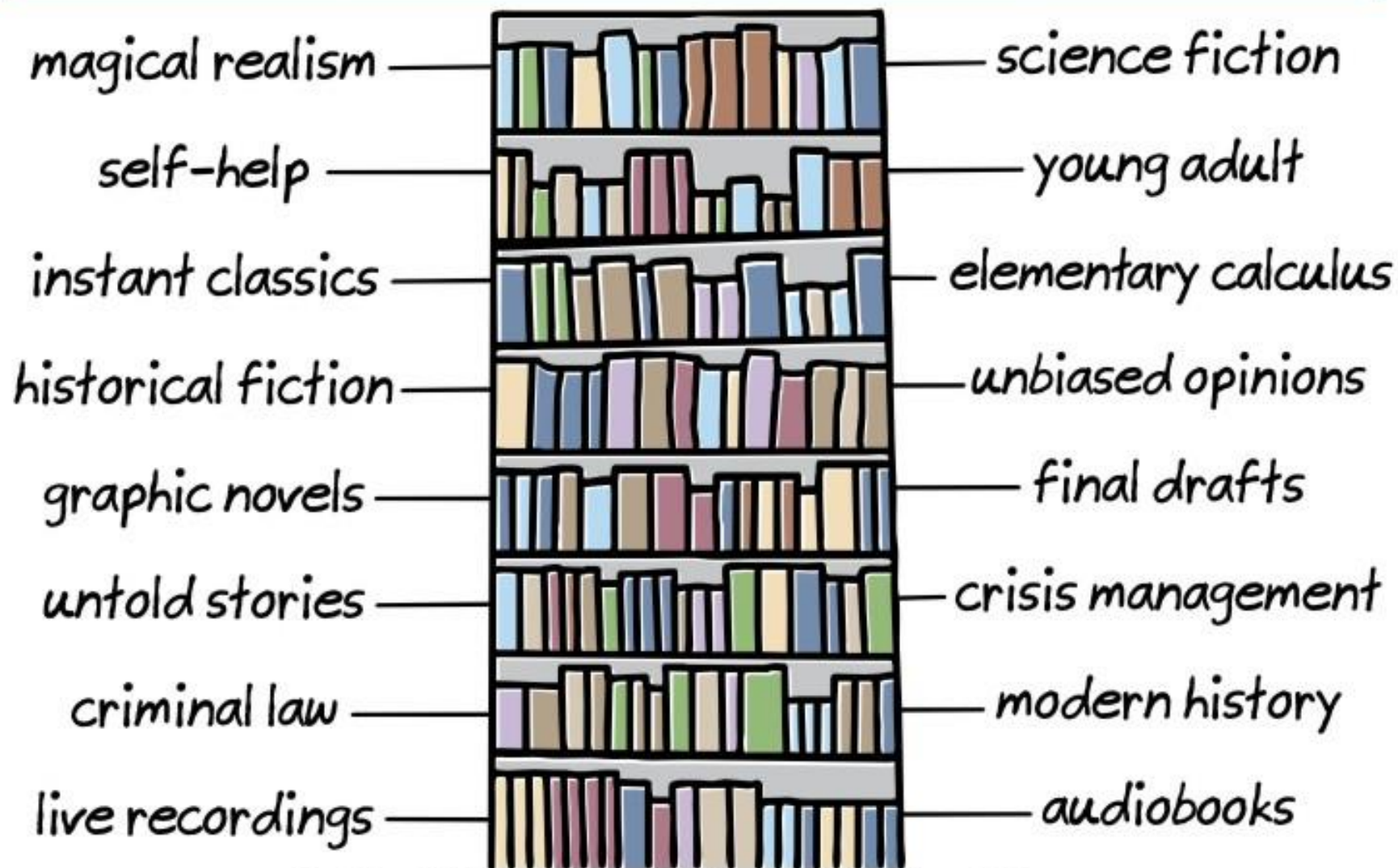
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2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (ESV)

⁷So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a **thorn was given me in the flesh**, a messenger of Satan to harass me, **to keep me from becoming conceited**. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (ESV)

⁹But 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 of my weaknesses, so that the **power of Christ may rest upon me.** ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For **when I am weak, then I am strong.**

Lead Out of Weakness and Vulnerability

1. Establish a Theology of Weakness.

- When we are weak
 - **We cry out to God.** “... I pleaded with the Lord ..” (v.8)
 - **We cling to God.** “My grace is sufficient for you ...” (v. 9)
- In and through our weakness
 - **God subdues us.** “... to keep me from becoming conceited.” (v.7)
 - **God strengthens us.** “... when I am weak, then I am strong.” (v.10)
“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Lead Out of Weakness and Vulnerability

1. Establish a Theology of Weakness

2. Embrace the Gift of Your Limp

- *“... Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” (v.9)*



Lead Out of Weakness and Vulnerability

1. Establish a Theology of Weakness

2. Embrace the Gift of Your Limp

3. Exercise the Grace of Vulnerability

- *“For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For **when I am weak, then I am strong.**” (v.10)*



The Return of the Prodigal Son
(Rembrandt)

Who is the lost son?

Lead Out of Weakness and Vulnerability

I asked God for strength that I might achieve;
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power that I might have the praise of others;
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

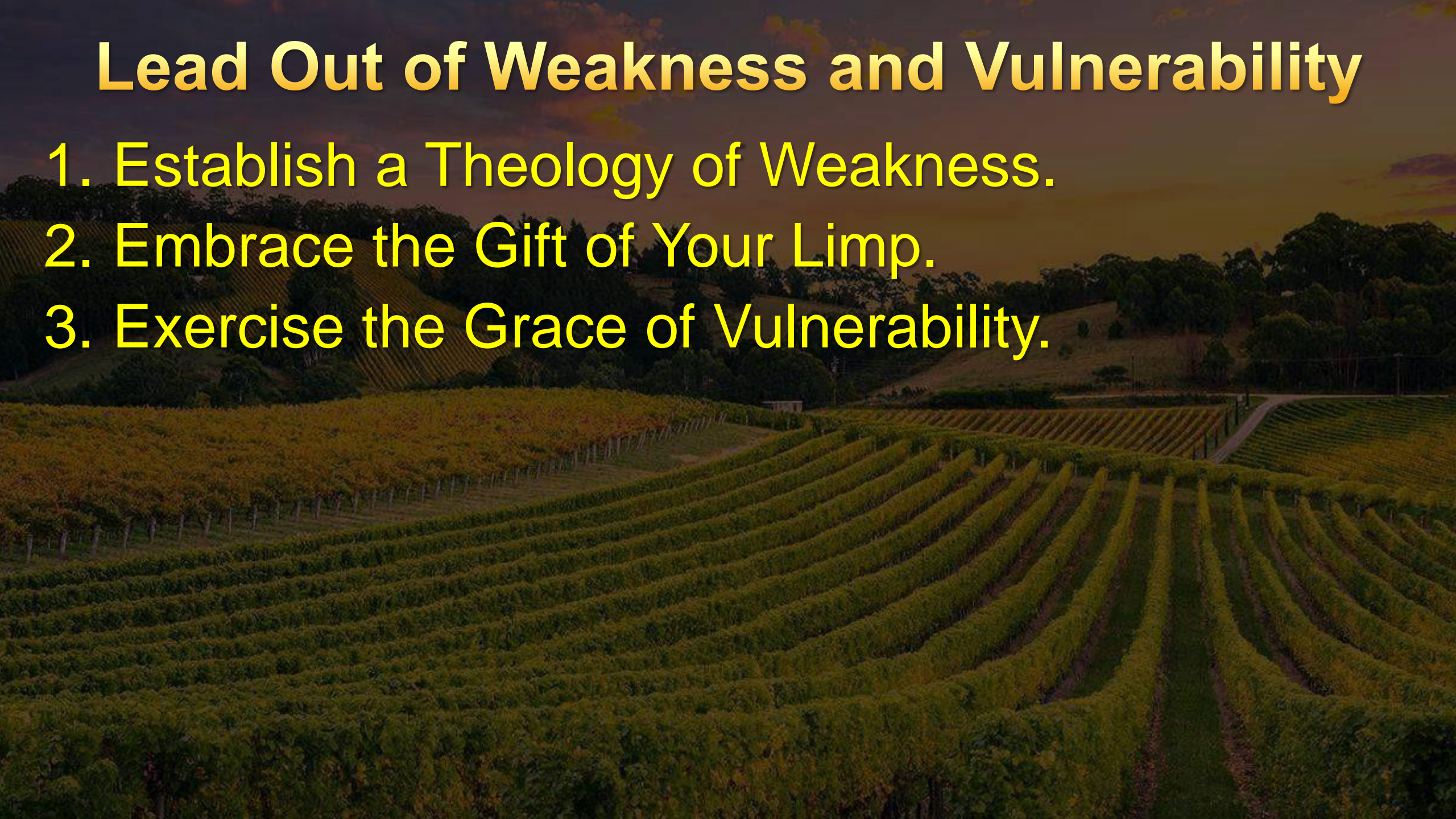
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am, among all people, most richly blessed.

Lead Out of Weakness and Vulnerability

1. Establish a Theology of Weakness.
2. Embrace the Gift of Your Limp.
3. Exercise the Grace of Vulnerability.



Discussion Questions

1. What do you see as the main points of a theology of weakness?
2. What do you find to be the greatest barriers to your embracing your limp?
3. What Bible verses or life experiences have helped you become more vulnerable and transparent?
4. Share about a weakness in which you have experienced God making you strong (or in which you are waiting for Him to work).
5. Share some specific areas you want to grow in living and leading out of weakness and vulnerability.