

SOME THOUGHTS ON BEING STRONG IN THE LORD

Eph.6:10-18

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. There is no greater urgency among the Lord's people than that of being strong in the Lord; that is, being strong spiritually.
 - a. Eph.6:10 expresses the need like this: "Finally, my brethren, ***be strong in the Lord***, and in the power of his might."
 - b. Eph.6:11a urges saints to "Put on the whole armour of God," and then in V.11b, declares the reason this is needed: "that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."
 - c. Then V.12 reveals that our battle is spiritual; it is "against spiritual wickedness in high places."
2. All Christians should be aware that being strong in the Lord is the concept of being powerful or mighty so as to be able to endure, even to the sacrificing of one's earthly life in the battle under certain circumstances. Cf. Rev.2:10.
3. In view of this, let us study to see what we can learn about this vital subject – the subject of being strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

II. DISCUSSION

A. GOD HAS ALWAYS EXPECTED HIS PEOPLE TO BE STRONG.

1. Deut.11:8 of the O.T. show how to be strong in the Lord: "Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, ***that ye may be strong***, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it." God expected it then; he expects it now!
2. As Joshua was about to replace Moses in the leadership of the Lord's people note what charge God gave to him in Josh.1:7: "Be strong and courageous that thou may observe to do according to all the Law."
3. N.T. Christians must also be strong, which shows God still expects it!
 - a. 1Cor.16:13 says, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."
 - b. According to Eph.6:10 being strong in the Lord is a command of the Lord with a vital reason assigned for the necessity of the command.

4. On a scale of 1 to 10, how strong do you consider yourself to be?

B. CONSIDER THE SOURCE OF THE CHRISTIAN'S STRENGTH.

1. If we are to be spiritually strong, we must appeal to the proper source.
2. Read Eph.6:10-18 once again with me and note the source of our spiritual strength. Cf. 2Tim.2:1-3.
 - a. It is foolish to try to be, or to think we can be, strong without the Lord's help, even though it seems we sometimes try it.
 - b. We can never be spiritually strong in, by and of ourselves alone! Cf. Jer.10:23; Psa.17:5; 119:9,11,16,17; Prov.16:1,9.
3. Consider the following passages and take note of how they relate to the source of our spiritual strength:
 - a. Phil.4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."
 - b. Phil.4:19: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
 - c. 2Cor.12:8-10: "For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."
 - d. 2Tim.4:16,17: "At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."

C. THE ARMOR OF GOD, AND THAT ALONE, HELPS US TO BE STRONG.

1. For emphasis, take notice of Eph.6:13-18 and consider each item of God's armor and what it does to enable us "to stand against the wiles of devil" and be successful in our battle "against spiritual wickedness in high places."
2. If one is going to be able to stand against the devil, he is going to have to be strong, of which the following passages leave no doubt.

- a. 1Pet.5:8,9.
 - b. 2Cor.2:11.
 - c. Jas.4:7,8.
3. Each one must put on this armor for himself; no one can do it for him!

D. WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO BE STRONG BY MANY STRONG, FAITHFUL BIBLE CHARACTERS OF BOTH TESTAMENTS.

1. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were strong in spite of what they had to endure; they always trusted in the Lord.
2. David, though not a perfect man, was a man “after God’s own heart” and stood strong in the face of enemies, even in his own family.
3. Nathan was strong when he said to David, “Thou art the man,” 2Sam.12:7.
4. See Heb.4,5,7,8,17-19,24-26,32-38.

III. CONCLUSION

1. There are no shortcuts to being strong! It takes lots of hard work, prayer, endurance and dependence upon the Lord and the guidance of his revealed word.
2. The Lord would not compromise not take a shortcut which the devil offered him in Mt.4:1-10. Neither should we; neither can we if we expect to gain the victory in Christ!
3. May all of us study the Bible, learn how others were strong and be determined to serve God faithfully, come what may and whatever the price.
4. May God bless you, each and every one of you, in your endeavor to be strong in the Lord.