

Victory Christian Center of Hollywood

*A Church appointed to Advance the Kingdom of God!
MC Griffin Campbell, M.Div. MA*

" Be Strong!"

Mid-week bible study

God teaches us in His word about being Strong. "Be Strong!"

As we look around today, on a regular basis, some leaders in the Body of Christ and yes some Believers have fallen into sin, and sexual immorality. Why? I believe it is because we have put other things first. We have failed to put God first in our everyday life-yes even at the break up of relationships. At the same time, we must realize "Being Strong," "Our Strength" comes from God by the power of the precious Holy Spirit.

Ok, yes, the world has "Strength" but it is limited. God's strength has no limitation. All Power, All Strength belongs to Him. We got the Power-the Strong in the name of Jesus!

I. Hear the word of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Eph. 6:10-11

EX. 13:9 This annual festival will be a visible sign to you, like a mark branded on your hand or your forehead. Let it remind you always to recite this teaching of the LORD: 'With a strong hand, the LORD rescued you from Egypt.'

Deut 4: 34

Has any other god dared to take a nation for himself out of another nation by means of trials, miraculous signs, wonders, war, a strong hand, a powerful arm, and terrifying acts? Yet that is what the LORD your God did for you in Egypt, right before your eyes.

Deut. 31:6-7

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel,

"Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance.

Deut. 31:23

The LORD gave this command to Joshua son of Nun: "Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you."

Joshua 1:18

Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous

Joshua 1:7,8,9

Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

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“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

**Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 10:25**

“Don’t ever be afraid or discouraged,” Joshua told his men. “Be strong and courageous, for the LORD is going to do this to all of your enemies.”

"Do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the LORD will do to all the enemies you are going to fight.”

Joshua 23:6

“Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left.

Ps 31:24 So be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the LORD!

II. Timothy 2: 1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

II. The meaning of Being Strong-Spiritually Strong refers to:

(a) What does it mean to be Strong? Webster tells us Strong means

· **having, showing, or able to exert great bodily or muscular power; physically vigorous or robust:**

· **accompanied or delivered by great physical, mechanical, etc., power or**

· **force:***a strong handshake; With one strong blow the machine stamped out afender*

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· **mentally powerful or vigorous:**

He may be old, but his mind is still strong.

· **especially able, competent, or powerful in a specific field or respect:**

*She's very strong in mathematics. He's weak at bat, but he's a strongfielder.*of great moral power, firmness, or courage:

strong under temptation.

· **powerful in influence, authority, resources, or means of prevailing or**

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- succeeding: Aggressive; willful:
- The Greek Word Strong-"Strength" applies to both natural and supernatural refers to: 1. Breath of the nostrils or mouth, often in Greek writings; 2. Movement of air (gentle) blast;

III. Be Strong in the Lord!

- Being Strong: "Strength" mentioned 360 times in the Bible,
- Other related words "power, strength, might."
- Paul tells us to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10). Paul is telling us that the unlimited power and strength of Christ are the source of strength for God's children.
- As Believers in Christ, we are to be strong in the mighty power of God.
- This means that our strength is not our own
- it is not human or fleshly. Our strength is not of the world.
- Our strength is found in Christ—
- We must remember: Romans 8:11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.
- We are children of Resurrection
- Paul reminds us in Philippians, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). In other words, there is no other source that gives man the strength to overcome the world with its trials, its temptations, and death.
- It is through submission to God's strength that we overcome the power of Satan: "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).
- It is by first aligning ourselves with the strength of God through our total submission to Him that we are able to withstand the wiles of the evil one:

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“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:10-11).

IV. #1 Power Point Reminders : A need to know about Satan

- He is the serpent, the Great Dragon, Beelzebub, the ruler of this world, the prince of the power of the air, the evil one, and the adversary.
 - He is Satan. And—if you are a follower of Jesus Christ—he hates your guts with a passion.
 - Like a roaring lion he is prowling about seeking to destroy you.
 - How can you stand firm and resist the devil so that he will flee from you? First, do not be naive; Don't be foolish-don't be a fool. Some people have told me-if I leave him alone-he will leave me alone. Others just don't believe the devil is for real. Folks, he is for real. We must know and consider his ways.
1. He may slander God to you in order to cast doubt on God's goodness and shipwreck your faith (Gen 3:4-5).
 2. He may tempt you to deceive others in order to create, or maintain, the impression of being more spiritual (Acts 5:3; Jn 8:44).
 3. He may corrupt your mind and steer you away from the simplicity of Christ and His gospel (2 Cor 11:3).
 4. He may hinder [cut in on, as in a race] your gospel witness and steal it from unsuspecting hearts (1 Thess 2:18; Matt 13:19).
 5. He may wrestle against you, fighting against your progress in Christ (Eph 6:12).
 6. He may tempt you to commit sexual immorality against your spouse as a result of neglecting the intimacy of the marriage bed (1 Cor 7:5).
 7. He may harass you with some form of fleshly affliction (2 Cor 12:7).
 8. He may blind the spiritual eyes of your unsaved family, friends, and neighbors so that they may not see the glory of Jesus in the gospel (2 Cor 4:4).
 9. He may keep your unsaved acquaintances in bondage to sins that hinder them from coming to God (Gal 4:8).
 10. He may smite you with physical disease (Luke 13:16; Job 2:7).
 11. He may murder you (Ps 106:37; Jn 8:44).
 12. He may sow tares [counterfeit Christians, sons of the evil one] within your assembly of believers in order to deceive and create disunity (Mt 13:38-39; 2 Cor 11:13-15).
 13. He may lead you toward theological compromise by causing you to be friendly to false doctrine and its teachers (1 Tim 4:1-3).
 14. He may persecute you for your godliness (Rev 2:10).
 15. He may tempt you to do evil (Matt 4:1; 1 Thess 3:5).
 16. He is—at this moment—prowling about seeking to capture and destroy you, chiefly through pride (1 Pet 5:6-8).
 17. He will most assuredly slander you before God in heaven (Rev 12:10).
 18. He may ask God for permission to sift you out for concentrated attack and temptation (Luke 22:31).
 19. He may use the power of suggestion to move you away from the will of God (Matt 16:21-23).

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20. He may try to cripple your effectiveness through confusion, discouragement, and despair (2 Cor 4:8-9).

How can you stand firm and resist the devil so that he will flee? The Bible exhorts believers to war against the enemy of faith by not remaining ignorant of his schemes (2 Cor 2:11); by submitting to God (Jas 4:7), being sober and alert and resistant to him (Eph 4:27; Jas 4:7; 1 Pet 5:8), and by not speaking lightly of him (Jude 8; 2 Pet 2:10).

V. #2 Power Point Reminders:: Put on your Armor daily.

- 5 Defensive Pieces of Armor and 2 Offensive Weapons:
- We must put on the armor of God, which includes the *defensive weapons* of truth,
- Righteousness, gospel proclamation, faith, and salvation.
- We must also employ the *offensive weapons* of the sword of Scripture and prayer (Eph 6:11-18). These are the only means by which we may firmly stand against the devil.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Eph 6:12).

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. Luke 2:40 Let's get ready to grow and become strong and/or stronger.

Let's Pray

Heavenly Father, I enter Your gates with Thanksgiving and enter Your courts with Praise. I bless Your Holy Name. I love You Lord. You are worthy to be Praise.

Holy Spirit come in-enter into every area of my life-teach me-lead me-guide me along the way. Holy Spirit thank You for being my Senior Partner, my Aid-the One called along side of me. I need Your help Holy Spirit. Give me wisdom, understanding and knowledge-witty ideas and creative invention.

Thank You Jesus for giving me the authority in Your name for my Victory. I declare the enemy is defeated and Jesus is Lord. I bring myself to the foot of the Cross because there is power in the Cross. I have faith in the precious and powerful Blood of Jesus Christ that was shed for me.

Thank You Lord for that Powerful Name-Jesus. I thank You for the Power in the word of God. I speak God's word into the atmosphere over all enemies-known and unknown-over all situations and circumstances that have come into my life. It is written, man shall not live by bread alone but by every one that comes from the mouth of God. Thank You Lord for my Victory in Jesus name. Amen. I expect something good to happen!