

BE STRONG IN THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD (part 2)

Luke 21:34-36; Isaiah 7:9, 40:29-31;

Hebrews 12:13-15

When we hear the word strength, we think power, endurance, and the ability to resist. We turn our heads to admire a strong man, whose muscles are very pronounced and wow him for what we see. But the spiritual, mental and emotional strengths are of more importance than that of the physical. We very much depend on these strengths to survive in the spiritual as well as in the physical. A person of great faith is a person of great spiritual strength; in his trials (the exercise machine) he exercises endurance, as when one lifts weights to strengthen the physical muscles. Faith is the muscle of our strength; the more we exercise it through our trials, the stronger our faith becomes. God's strength is found in our standing firm in our faith; without it we cannot stand at all (Isaiah 7:9b). We would never be able to say, We can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us if we had no faith. The strength of God resides in the heart that is quiet and free from fear; it resides in the renewed and submissive mind. He said, be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)! Let not your heart-your emotion, your mind be troubled but through faith believe in Me; My strength I give you through My peace.

The soul, comprised of the heart –emotion, will and of the mind, receives strength from the Holy Spirit when it is walking in obedience to Him; but when it is listening to the flesh, then Fear, an enemy of faith, will rob the soul of strength, because its purpose is to handicap it emotionally, mentally and physically through the spirits of anxieties and worries. Yahshua warned us against the worries from fear in view of the troubles of these last days: Keep awake then and watch at all times, praying that you may have the full strength the ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man (Luke 21:36). We must be girded with God's strength to fight this enemy in the spiritual realm and in the realm of the soul. Blessed is the man whom you discipline and instruct, O Lord and teach out of your Law, that You may give him power to keep himself calm in the days of adversities (Psalm 94:12).

To know the power of God's Word is not enough, if it is not planted in our heart. To know that God is our refuge in times of trouble, but never believing it to run to Him for strength, is a faithless and powerless attitude and devoid of His promise. In our spiritual journey through the desert of life, we must be willing to let the Holy Spirit water and condition our heart with His Word for us to receive the strength in times of needs. We need strength to stand for what's right, when everyone calls it ridiculous; we need strength to wait on the Lord for answers in every aspect of life. Isaiah asks the question, Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not faint or grow weary; there is no searching of His understanding. He gives power to the faint and weary, and to him who has no might He increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall feebly stumble and fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall change and renew their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint, or become tired (Isaiah 40:29-31). "Have you not known? Have you not heard"? In your weakness God is strong; so brace up and reinvigorate

and set right you slackened and weakened and drooping hands and strengthen your feeble and palsied and tottering knees, and cut through and make firm and plain and smooth, straight paths for your feet, so that the lame and halting [limbs] may not be put out of joint, but rather may be cured (Hebrews 12:12-13). Yes, my friend, you can only cut through your trials with strong hands and knees of faith so that your body will not suffer the consequences of your spiritual weakness. Cut through with the power and strength of contentment- the inward peace, as Paul said, godliness accompanied with contentment is great and abundant gain for we brought nothing into the world, and obviously we cannot take anything out of the world; but if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content (I Timothy 6:6-8, 11).

With righteousness, faith, love, patience and gentleness of heart, we can fight the good fight of the faith, strengthened by Him, Who is the author of faith-Yahshua! In whatever state you and I are, contentment will bring strength for our everyday living, rain or shine.