

“Be Strong in the Lord” Ephesians 6:10

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV)

I. A call to dependence -

1. “Be strong” **Ephesians 6:10 A** – the Greek word here pronounced endunamousthe is the passive imperative of ἐνδυναμώω and puts emphasis on our dependence upon God for strength.
2. We can do nothing without our Lord – **5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (NKJV)**

In fact, the word “can,” implying ability to do something, in John 15:5 is from the same Greek root word.

3. Yet, with the Lord’s strength we can run and FLY – **³¹ But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)**

- A. *Waiting on the LORD is the same as leaning on, or depending upon Him.*
- B. *We wait upon the LORD, receive strength from Him, when we pray – ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)*
- C. We wait upon the LORD when we feed upon His Word (which is our spiritual food) – **2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV)**

⁴ But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ” Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

D. It is the food that we live on and the sword we use to fight - **¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; Ephesians 6:17**

E. We are dependent upon God for all our spiritual armor – ¹¹ **Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Ephesians 6:11 (NKJV)**

4. We are so dependent upon Him, that our lack of dependence upon Him means certain sin and failure – ¹¹ **And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. Exodus 17:11 (NKJV)**

¹² **Give us help from trouble, For the help of man is useless. 13 Through God we will do valiantly, for it is He who shall tread down our enemies. Psalm 108:12–13 (NKJV)**

5. It is through God and His strength we gain the ultimate victory, and we find this strength / power even in Christ's cross – ²⁹ **For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall. Psalm 18:29 (NKJV)**

¹¹ **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)** We overcome "him" –

A. The "him" in **Revelation 12:11** is Satan, see **Revelation 12:9** ⁹ ... **the great dragon ... that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; ... Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)**

B. The word for overcome is NIKE, which is also used in **Romans 8** – ³⁶ **As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:36–39 (NKJV)**

II. A call to depend upon His dominion / power – "and in the power" - **Ephesians 6:10**

1. The Greek word is a form of the word Kratos – crat – a participant in or a supporter of government or ruling body: democrat, aristocrat

A. In **Ephesians 6:12** the Greek wording for ... the rulers of the darkness of this age... is Cosmo - Crat or world ruler Satan has control over this world ... Yet, Christ is ultimately over Satan –

B. God's / Christ's rule is over all – though some may attempt to challenge Him - **4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; Psalm 2:4 (NKJV)**

C. Nebuchadnezzar recognized His power / rule - ³⁴ **And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. ³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?" Daniel 4:34–35 (NKJV)**

2. This power is an other– worldly power and it often displayed with our weakness, consider He (God) defeated Pharaoh and the Egyptian Empire using a couple old men and a stick -

A. Moses' / Aaron's rod turned serpent ate Pharaoh's serpents – **Exodus 7:12,**

B. Moses' / Aaron's rod / staff / stick a dead piece of wood was used to:

- Make water into blood – **Exodus 7:14-24**
- Make frogs come upon Egypt – **Exodus 8:2-13**
- Make lice – **Exodus 8:16-19**
- Thunder and hail – **Exodus 9:23**
- An army of locusts – **Exodus 10:13-14**
- The parting of the Red Sea – **Exodus 14:16-31**

3. Think too of David / Goliath -- - Esther / Haman – this is LORD of Hosts
POWER

III. It is a call to depend upon Jesus' superhero power /
might, healthful, youthful, beautiful might – the
power of His might. Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV)

Those were the days my friend, we thought they'd never end

We'd sing and dance, forever and a day

We'd live the life we choose, we'd fight and NEVER lose

For we were young and always got our way

– 1. **of His might. Ephesians 6:10 C (NKJV)**

Greek - ἰσχύς, Healthful, useful strength, special powers that Christ has because
He is God's Son, because He is sinless –

A. This is similar to the Hebrew used for "mighty" in **Isaiah 9:6 – ⁶ For unto us
a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be
upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful,
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah
9:6 (NKJV)**

B. Mighty God can also be translated Hero God

2. Christ's strength is wonderful / heroic because we find it in His cross – He is
called the Arm of the LORD – ⁵³ **Who has believed our report? And to
whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2 For He shall grow
up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He
has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty
that we should desire Him. 3 He is despised and rejected by men, A
Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our
faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4
Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we
esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was
wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we
are healed. Isaiah 53:1-6**

3. The cross is such a strangely wonderful power that many people miss it – ¹⁸
For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV)

A. Samson's strength was in his hair –

B. Popeye's in his spinach (fictional but not totally)

C. Christ's strength for our salvation, for our victory over Satan, is in His cross – **1 Corinthians 2:2,**
² For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:2 (NKJV)

2:9-16; Revelation 12:11 It is the glorious things which **“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard” 1 Corinthians 2:9**

D. Take up your cross daily – **Luke 9:23**

²³ Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. Luke 9:23 (NKJV)

IV. How do we plug into this wonderful POWER of God?

Not like electricity ... not a force like “the force be with you” God is personal, even Tri-personal! We need to KNOW Him – **John 17:3**

To have His Strength on our side we NEED to know Him ... in order to know Him

1. *You must be born again –*

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:3–8 (NKJV)

2. *Ask, Seek, Knock PRAY for the Holy Spirit's presence and power in your life –*

¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:11–13 (NKJV)

Not conventional might or power but God's Spirit power -

⁶ So he answered and said to me: "This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)

3. *READ GOD's WORD: Life and power are dependent also on being in God's Word, finding direction for LIFE from it –*

¹ Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. ⁴ The ungodly *are* not so, But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1 (NKJV)

⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

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