

Title: Strength for the Feeble and Fearful

Text: Isaiah 35: 5-10

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Place: SGBC, New Jersey

What is the message the Lord gives to strengthen every believer who is weak and hasty of heart?

Isaiah 35: 3: Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. 4 Say to them [that are] of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come [with] vengeance, [even] God [with] a recompence; he will come and save you.

Over 2000 years ago, God came. The Son of God took human flesh and became a man. God came in the person of Jesus Christ, the GodMan. And the Mediator between God and men saved all those given him before the world began by his finished work at Calvary.

Our text is a prophecy of this gospel age in a three-fold way: 1) It speaks of Christ literally coming the first time. He has come and has accomplished the redemption of all those given him of the Father and these good things are taking place now!... 2) It speaks of Christ returning when he makes all things new: the new heaven and new earth, new heavenly Zion coming down out of heaven, wherein these things will be fully accomplished and we shall have new perfect communion with God our Savior and with the Lamb forever and ever. 3) It speaks of Christ coming by the Holy Spirit into the hearts of his children in saving power in this life and this is the result of his grace!

Isaiah 35; 5: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6: Then shall the lame [man] leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. 7: And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

I. THE MIRACLES CHRIST PERFORMED WHEN HE CAME PROVED HE IS GOD, THE CHRIST, SENT TO SAVE and WHO SAVES EFFECTUALLY.

Isaiah 35: 5: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened

Christ is the Light therefore he opened the physical eyes of the blind to manifest it is so.

John 9:1: And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. 2: And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? 3: Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. 4: I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. 5: As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Isaiah 35: 5: Then...the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6:...and the tongue of the dumb sing:

Christ Jesus is the Word of God, the Voice. He gave physical hearing to many who were deaf and speech to many who were dumb-unable to speak.

Jeremiah 6:10: To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.

Mark 7: 32: And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. 33 And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; 34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. 35 And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. 36 And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published [it]; 37 And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak....

- Christ Jesus is the Light so he opened the eyes of the blind to see.
- Christ Jesus is the Word of God therefore he gave hearing to the deaf and speech to those who were unable to speak.

Isaiah 35: 6: Then shall the lame [man] leap as an hart,

Christ Jesus is the Power by which impotent sinners are made to walk after him. He made some who were lame to leap and walk.

John 5: 1: After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2: Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. 3: In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 4: For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. 5: And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 6: When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? 7: The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. 8: Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. 9: And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked:

Be sure you get this: The miracles Christ performed proved that he was sent of God. The fact that he did those miracles by his own power proved that he is God. John's disciples asked the Lord Jesus for proof that he was the Messiah.

Matthew 11: 2: Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, 3: And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? 4: Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: 5: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

So it is that verse 4 of our text says, **Isaiah 35: 4: God will come..., [even] God...; he will come and save you. 5: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears**

of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6: Then shall the lame [man] leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing:

II. BY THE SIMPLE PREACHING OF CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED, GREATER MIRACLES THAN THESE ARE WORKED IN THE SOULS OF SINNERS THROUGHOUT THIS GOSPEL AGE!

John 14: 12: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. 13: And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14: If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Illustration: Do you believe in miracles? Would you think it amazing if a blind man's eyes were opened to see? If a deaf man's ears were unstopped? If the lame were made to leap or the tongue of those silent made to speak? Every believer is a greater miracle than that--a miracle of all-powerful, saving, grace made new creatures, new birth, by God!

We need more than corrective lenses--we are blind by nature. Only God gives SPIRITUAL sight. Christ the Light. Christ gives spiritual sight to those spiritually blind.

Acts 26:18: To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

2 Corinthians 4: 6: For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

B. We need more than just a hearing aid--we are deaf--he must circumcise the ear to hear. Christ gives spiritual ears to those spiritually deaf.

Acts 16: 14: And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

C. We need more than just speech therapy--we can not speak a word about Christ--we need him to put his Word in our hearts and on our tongue

Hoshea 14:2: Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

If you do, it will be because Christ has given you the words, the confession to him of your need of mercy!

D. We need more than just physical therapy--we are dead, we need a new heart, a new spirit, to be made alive to walk after Christ! Only God can do this! Christ Jesus the Light, the Word, the Life does this. Through the Holy Spirit. Through the preaching of the gospel.

III. THE CERTAIN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF CHRIST COMING IS LIFE!

Isaiah 35:...for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. 7: And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, [shall be] grass with reeds and rushes.

This speaks to the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, to the triumphant, effectual Word of the gospel going forth throughout the world.

The sinner in himself is born the first time a "Wilderness, desert, parched ground, thirsty land--the habitation of dragons". But when Christ came, God came-- He put away the sin of his people. He sends forth the Spirit. He makes each one behold Redemption is accomplished--he binds the strong man and creates life within!

John 7: 38: He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

- Isaiah 32: 8--Christ the Man
- Isaiah 35: 1--the desert rejoices and blossoms as the rose
- V2--joy and singing, fruitfulness--John 15:16: Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

We will look at these next verses more another time but let's read them and notice a few things:

Isaiah 35: 8: And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it [shall be] for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err [therein]. 9: No lion shall be there, nor [any] ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk [there]: 10: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

During the captivity--the highway to Jerusalem was cut off--so it was when we fell in Adam. But now Christ is the Way, not to an earthly Zion but to heavenly Zion, which shall not be cut off!

Christ is the Way-the Highway--this is the Kings Highway!

1. Christ is the Way of holiness!--washed in the blood of the Lamb, washed by Spirit of God, unto you Christ is made Sanctification and the Sanctifier--we are no longer unclean and now we follow Christ the Way of holiness! it [shall be] for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err [therein].
2. Christ is the Way of safety--**no lion or ravenous beast**
3. Christ is the Way for those redeemed and ransomed by the blood of the Lamb--
4. Christ is the Sure Way--there are 10-11 "shalls" in these 3 verses.
5. Christ is the Way of Joy--come with songs, shall obtain joy, and gladness and sorrow and sighing shall flee away

6. Christ is the Everlasting Way--v10--everlasting joy

Application: THIS WORK OF SALVATION COULD NEVER BE ACCOMPLISHED BY YOU AND I, ONLY BY GRACE THROUGH THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST JESUS, GOD HIMSELF.

The grace of our God is distinguishing, electing, saving grace!

When Christ comes to a sinner, he comes not to offer grace, but to perform grace. He does not come to show you the way, but to put you in the way. He does not come to tell you what to do for him, but to do for you what you cannot do for yourself.

Has the Lord given you eyes, ears, and sight. Has he put his Word in your heart and on your tongue to glorify only him? Has our God put you in the Way by his grace?

Oh, Rejoice! Feeble sinner--Christ is your Power, his grace is sufficient to make you stand. Christ is the peace of our hearts.

Come to Christ and never stop coming to Christ--like the leper--saying, "LORD, IF THOU WILT, THOU CANST MAKE ME WHOLE!"--AND HE WILL!!

And know that you, now have and shall have a continual open Way to heavenly Zion in Christ the Way!

AMEN!