

200108-4 Doctrine Series, Christ, The Believer's Strength-CThurman

34. Christ: The Believer's Strength*

The only strength by which the saints are enabled to encounter all oppositions and trials is by Jesus Christ, who is the captain of their salvation made perfect through sufferings. He has engaged His faithfulness and strength to assist them in all their afflictions, to uphold them in all their temptations, and to preserve them by His power to His everlasting kingdom.

Jn.16:33, 15:5; Phl.4:11; He.2:9, 10; 2Ti.4:18.

**Formerly Article 32 of 1644 COF*

None can say that the Lord is their strength but those that truly know Jesus Christ as Savior. These must have first received God's sovereign bestowal of everlasting life, and then converted to Christ in faith at the hearing of the gospel. Only after this can anyone claim that God really is their strength. Until this men only live after the flesh and in the power of it. But for us that know Christ He is our strength. He runs to the aid of those that put their trust in Him.

He.2.14 ¶ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power (κράτος, might) of death, that is, the devil;

might destroy, καταργέω, to make without effect, destroy, bring to nought, to vanish away, to put down, do away, abolish, to cease; so to render the devil powerless in the issue of the saints' dying.

15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

deliver, ἀπαλλάξῃ, 3ps. aor. subj. act. of ἀπαλλάσσω, ἀπό + ἀλλάσσω to change; tss. to deliver and to depart.

16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

17 *Wherefore in all things it behoved (was necessary) him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*

18 *For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*

to succour, βοηθήσαι, aor. infin. of βοηθέω, a verb tss. *to help, succour*; the noun, βοήθεια, is only twice in the NT and tss. *help*. The aorist tense (time) of the verb is not so much concerned with the *when* it occurred, but with the *fact* that it occurred. See the noun form of this verb directly below.

succor, is derived from Latin, *succurrere*, to run up, run to help, fr. *sub* up + *currere* to run **1** : RELIEF; *also* : AID, HELP **2** : something [so someone] that furnishes relief. [added]

Again, the noun form for Christ's helping His people is found in Hebrew chapter 4. When we come to it notice the phrase *to help* in v.16.

He.4.14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities (weaknesses); but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

16 *Let us therefore come boldly (μετὰ παρρησίας, with confidence, plainly, openly, freely) unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find (εὐρίσκω, to find, get, perceive, and obtain) grace to help in time of need.*

Notice that this is for every Christian, not some. The truth is that every Christian, for as long as he is in this present body of weakness [1Co.15.43; Ro.6.6; Col.2.11; Ro.7.24], has need of coming to Christ to obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. So, come! Come with confidence. Don't shrink back. Apart from this there is no other resource; apart from Christ there is no one else that has the power to help us so that we might continue in the profession of our faith. Apart from Christ we can do nothing.

Joh 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Whether we have little or much, whether we are the least or the greatest, as we abide in Him we can do the will of God. This is what the apostle Paul learned.

Phl.4. 10 ¶ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

God, that calls us by His grace, fits us to walk on His *highway* for the task at hand.

Ps 84:5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them, [or, in whose heart is the highway].

6 Who passing through the valley of Baca (weeping) make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.

Ps.126.4 ¶ Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

7 They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

8 ¶ O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah.

9 Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.

10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

In the book of Habakkuk the nation of Israel had become exceeding wicked before the LORD. The nation was filled with spoiling and violence, strife and contention. (Hab.1.2-4) As a judgment the Lord was going to bring in an invasion of the Chaldeans. As a result the nation of Israel and the people of God would come into great destitution. (Hab.3.17) Not only did the people of God suffer, but all the surrounding nations as well. We read that this prophet was greatly disturbed on one hand while. He knew that he didn't have sufficient in him to bear with this great trial that was coming. But he would cast himself upon God to provide for in the day of trouble.

Hab.3.16 ¶ When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.

17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

19 The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

Can't explain it. It defies all logic. But it was right! And this what faith does. Something similar to this was Daniel's experience. The Lord would reveal to Daniel visions which were too much to bear. But with those visions the Lord gave him strength and he did receive them and sealed them in his book.

Da 10:1 ¶ In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

2 In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.

3 I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

4 And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel;

...

8 Therefore I was left alone (because there was a great earthquake, v.7), and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.

9 Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.

10 ¶ And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.

11 And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

for my comeliness, טִיב, ha-vod, masc. sing. noun, tss. honor, glory, majesty, goodly, comeliness, and beauty; KJV marg. vigor; refers to natural strength.

...

16 And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength.

17 For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me.

18 Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me,

19 And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

We have need to receive strength of the Lord to be able to do the will of God. I do not believe that He will strengthen those who will not commit themselves to following after Christ. We should be exercising in spiritual things. Always

pressure to the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Phl.3.14) We are to be godly. (1Ti.4.8)

*1Co 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.
14 Let all your things be done with charity.*

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

He.13.5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Like Moses and Caleb who were as strong in the end of their lives as they were in the beginning, until the Lord is finished with us, we should go from faith to faith. (Ro.1.17)

De 34:7 And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated. (cf. Deu.31.2, it was this way until Moses' service was complete)

Jos.14.6 ¶ Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the LORD said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadeshbarnea.

7 Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadeshbarnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart.

8 Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

9 And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.

10 And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the

children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.

11 As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.

We doubt this in us because we look at our natural inabilities and bodily weakness. Abraham doubted in the beginning because he was an old man. (Ge.17.17) Moses, because he wasn't eloquent and was slow of tongue. (Ex.3.10) Gideon because his family was poor and he was the youngest in the family. (Jud.6.15) Jephthae because he wasn't of a goodly heritage. (Jud.11.1) And many others. We all have reason not to believe God when we look at ourselves. But we should learn to believe because the Son of God, Jesus Christ stands for us. Paul, though he had persecuted the church of God, learned that he had everything he needed as he looked to Christ.

2Co 12:9 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 (weaknesses), that the power of Christ may rest (tabernacle) upon me. (which refers to the Holy Spirit of God working upon us)

is made perfect, τελειοῦται, 3ps. pres. ind. pass. of τελειόω.

He didn't know all of this in the beginning. He learned through experience that *God worketh in [us] both to will and to do of His good pleasure.* (Php 2:13)

Finally,

Ne 8:10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Christ is the believer's strength.

This concludes the series through the confession of faith. I began this series December 10, 2018 and invited brother King to join with me, which he agreed to do. I hope that you have received a blessing from these lessons and that you might refer to them as often as necessary. All of the messages are in both audio and written formats. They are posted online and freely accessible & downloadable 24/7. Also, I hope to assemble all of my notes into one document, and all of brother King's notes into another. The first pages of these will have a table of contents and a cross-reference index to the articles. I'd like to close with a quote from a Baptist pastor in Canada. He sums up very well my sentiments concerning the church, her doctrine, and those who desire to join with us.

'So we have always said to prospective [church] members, Study well what we believe, before you offer to join us. Come to us, if you come at all, on the basis of mutual respect for and acceptance of the truth as it is given in the whole Word of God. We want our love for the Word to be the cement that holds our membership together, not merely our feelings for each other or our desire to have an institution that serves or succeeds. The preacher changes, the people change, the programme varies and you will alter too; but only the Lord and His Word remain unchangeable. Let your love for God as He is revealed in the Bible be the main bond that unites you to [this] Church.' *J. R. Boyd*, pastor, Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto, Ontario, [added]