

Afternoon Sermon Outline – June 20, 2021

“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 *ένδυναμόω* 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 do exploits –

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. ³⁰ As for God, His way *is* perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. Psalm 18:29–30 (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)

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)

We overcome “him” –

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 B*

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 (NKJV) 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*

III. *It is a call to depend upon Jesus’ super hero power / might –*

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 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, 2:9-16; Revelation 12:11*

It is the glorious things which “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard”

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

Arnold Brevick