

STRENGTH ISN'T AN ACCIDENT

9/11/14

Those who grow to be strong in the Lord, often coping with conflicts, doubts, fears and oppression: do so for a very good reason. A love of scriptural truth and a love of God's people, gives the best opportunities to enjoy blessings, miracles and success. The pressures of life, family and friends, can work against these truths. However, those who will grow strong, remain steadfast in God's word and its application.

*The positive result of a vision that Daniel was inspired to learn from... **DAN 10:12** Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the **first day** that thou didst set **thine heart to understand**, and to **chasten** thyself before thy God, thy **words were heard**, and I am come **for thy words**. Self-discipline and genuine commitment were all that it took for Daniel to be wonderfully blessed by God. This experience began for us when we received the Holy Spirit with the ability to exercise certain miracles through faith.*

*The prophecy revealed to Jacob/Israel, is the same in principle offered to us, even today. **ISA 43:1** But now thus saith the LORD that **created thee**, O Jacob, and he that **formed thee**, O Israel, Fear not: for I have **redeemed** thee, I have called thee by thy name; **thou art mine**. We have also been given a new name, because we also have been recreated by God... being born again through the anointing of the Spirit. **2** When thou passest through the **waters**, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the **fire**, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. Our conversion to the Christian lifestyle is the same... through the waters of baptism and the fire of the Holy Spirit we shall no longer be harmed by sin, nor the sinfulness of men (nor the power of God for that matter). We are strong because God is with us and in us. **1COR 3:16** **Know ye not** that ye are the temple of God, and *that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?* Remember, the fire of God burnt brightly in the Old Testament temple, when it was present... likewise, so it is with us. It is also our power, strength and righteous confidence... it shows.*

*We are only as strong as our faith... that is, we are only as strong as our ability to hand over to God. **JOSH 1:9** Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God **is with thee whithersoever thou goest**. God is our strength, not our natural thoughts nor abilities. **2COR 10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: **4** (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, **but mighty through God** to the pulling down of strong holds;). We have power over the temptations of this life, when we train ourselves to hand over to the Lord and do things his way. Troubles arise when we try to do things our way. The weight of conflict may pressure us to choose another option rather than God's truth.*

*The Lord is the provider of all our spiritual strengths... it is not of us. **1PET 5:8** Be **sober** (clear headed), be **vigilant** (motivated); because your **adversary** the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: He is preying on the weak and the fearful. Life's challenges can strengthen us and build confidence. They also offer us the chance to save others... **9** Whom resist **steadfast in the faith** (this was Daniel's great strength... he set his heart on the word of God), knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. Temptations when faced, lead to strength and confidence... they demonstrate God's credibility... the truth of his word. We are always facing alternative options, which are not God given. We resist them by staying together... by not being separated from the flock... by remaining faithful and trusting to his word. Not all problems vanish quickly. Some last and need considerable patience and trust. **10** But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have **suffered a while** (built on your experience), make you **perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle** you. God has the answer to every problem we will ever face.*

*God wants us to be like Daniel, so he can respond the same way ..."I am come **for thy words**."*

Lock your heart into Godly service... establish actions and disciplines that lead to faith building.

Faith leads to blessing and blessings build spiritual strength.

Let the others be the focus of your concerns... not yourself.

Remember, strength is a plan... not an accident.