

MESSAGE

Occasion : Coming Together for Praise, Prayer, Preaching and Provision
Theme : Able to Do Abundantly as Ekklesia
Venue : OnLine Video Streaming
Date : March 29, 2020

TITLE : STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT
Text/s :

Eph 6:10-20

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

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

KJV

Bible Reading :

1 Thess 5:1-8

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

KJV

Rom 5:1-5

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

KJV

2 Cor 12:7-10

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

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, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

KJV

Song/s : I Am Thine O Lord / I Know Whom I Have Believed / God Leads Us Along

Other references :

INTRODUCTION

More than any time in our lives, this COVID-19 pandemic is the time when we all should “be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.”

We ought not to think that the spiritual battle that is often referred to as having the need for the spiritual armor cannot be applied to the battle we have in cobatting this unseen virus that infect and kill thousands before us. The nCoV does not only infect and kill, it renders many people weak because of fear and anxiety. It renders thousands of people hopeless with all the uncertainties; lonesome because of quarantine; confused because of too much unvalidated information being shared; angry, bitter, envious, hateful because of inequality in treatments; depressed because there is nobody to turn to for any assurance in life. We may see empty streets outside, but inside our very bodies, in our minds and hearts, we have chaos.

Is it just a physical battle that we do against the COVID-19 for life that we do? While there are many in the frontlines, heroic in their acts, but they get home and cannot even touch their loved ones, they break down in tears. While they offer help, they themselves are helpless.

Where then may we be strong? The Apostle Paul sets a determined, resounding, “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”

You may be today, someone who does not believe in God, in the spiritual, in the Bible. And you say, you do not need this message... Do you not? You may think, you do not need church or religion, or this faith... Do you not really need? Or you may indeed have religion now, some church you say you are a part of, a small group, a fellowship... But the verse says, “Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.”

Can you still trust some temporal, material institutions at this time? Look at the figures... more than 650k cases around the world, more than 30k deaths and that covers 202 countries and territories...

Look at the words again, “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might”

BODY

Eph 6:10-20

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12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

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20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
KJV

There is what is to be done in order to be strong. Physically, we need to eat the proper kind of food. Have the right diet. Have exercise. Have the right amount of sleep. Get to know what comes in to our mouths in terms of nutrients, etc. Without these, you are not physically strong.

In terms of getting strong materially speaking, you need to do something. You need to do something according to finance, with all the projections, feasibilities and the sort. Without these, you cannot be materially strong.

In terms of getting strong politically, you need to do something.

Strength doesn't come to you like how Spiderman was bitten by a spider. Strength doesn't come to you as simple as changing clothes....

You say be strong in faith... but you do not even understand your faith!

We then can be strong in the Lord Jesus and in the power of His might by putting on the whole armor of God. Some call this the Christian armor. The Bible presents this simply, the Armor of God. Put it on. It is not the armor the church leader. It is not the armor of the some other people. This is the armor of God! David could not even wear the armor of Saul!

The reason we need the Armor of God? - Eph 6:11-13, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

KJV

2 Cor 10:3-6

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;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

KJV

And the Bible says, Put on.

The Bible has a number of this for us to put on...

Rom 13:12

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us **put on the armour of light.**

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Gal 3:27

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have **put on Christ.**

KJV

Eph 4:24

24 And that ye **put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

KJV

Col 3:10

10 And have **put on the new man**, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

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Col 3:12-14

12 **Put on** therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;**

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14 And above all these things **put on charity**, which is the bond of perfectness.

KJV

But on this particular point, Put on the Armor of God...

1) Truth for our 360-degree bearing

Eph 6:14

...having your loins girt about with truth

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John 17:17

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

KJV

1 Thess 2:13

13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

KJV

2 Tim 2:15

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

KJV

2) Righteousness to cover our subtle, sinful hearts

Eph 6:14

...having on the breastplate of righteousness;

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Rom 3:21-22

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

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Phil 3:9

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

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1 Cor 1:30

30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

KJV

Rom 5:21

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

KJV

3) Peace of the Gospel for us to carry wherever we go

Eph 6:15

...feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

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Rom 10:15

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

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Eph 2:17

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

KJV

Matt 4:23-24

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

24 And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

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4) Faith to give protection in every work and movement

Eph 6:16

...taking the shield of faith

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Ps 56:3-4

3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

KJV

Ps 56:10-11

10 In God will I praise his word: in the Lord will I praise his word.

11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

KJV

2 Cor 4:16-18

16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

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Heb 11:24-34

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.
27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.
28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.
29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.
30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.
31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.
32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:
33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,
34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.
KJV

1 John 5:4-5

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

KJV

Gen 15:1

15 After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

KJV

5) Salvation that is in Christ to fill and secure our thoughts and decisions

Eph 6:17

...take the helmet of salvation,

KJV

1 Thess 5:8

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

KJV

2 Tim 1:12

12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

KJV

6) Word of God that serves as our very weapon

Eph 6:17

...sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

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Heb 4:12

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

KJV

Matt 4:4

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

KJV

John 6:63

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

KJV

7) Prayer and supplication that gives boldness to do the work

Eph 6:18-20

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

KJV

Now what to do need to do?

Put these on and stand!

Eph 6:13-14

...and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore...

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Col 4:12

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

KJV

1 Cor 16:13

13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

KJV

1 Cor 10:13

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

KJV

CONCLUSION