

Be Strong
In The Lord

NT obsession with strength

Lk.22:32

Ep.6

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

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

What characteristics?

How to become strong?

I. Work

Jn.9:4

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

- Luke 16
- Luke 19:11-27
 - Excuses turn laziness into a virtue
- Ro.15:1
- God wants work to be done...

When God wants work done...

- Moses was busy with flocks at Horeb.
- Gideon . . . threshing wheat.
- Saul was busy searching for lost animals.
- Elisha . . . plowing with twelve yoke of oxen.
- David . . . caring for his father's sheep.
- Nehemiah . . . serving the king.
- Amos . . . following the flock.
- Peter and Andrew casting net into the sea.
- James and John were busy mending nets.
- Matthew was busy collecting customs.

Jn.9:4

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

- Luke 16
- Luke 19:11-27
 - Excuses turn laziness into a virtue
- Ro.15:1
- 1 Co.15:58

I. Work

II. Best

Best health, income, treatment, food...

- Mt.6:33, *first* is same as *best*
- Jn.4:23, worship in spirit and truth
- Jn.14:15, obedience
- Ep.5:16, best use of time
- Col.3:1-3, seek things above
- Hb.10:24-25, consider others, attend
- Ps.122:1, glad...

Why do so many give God less than their best?

- Busy; not enough time.
- Creative excuses take place of best service.
- Faulty priorities.

I. Work

II. Best

III. Converted

Conversion – turning

- Acts 3:19
- Acts 9:35
- Acts 11:21
 - How? 11:19-21

True conversion is to the Lord, not man

- 'Pope'
- 'Pastor'
- Origen –
 - Blind slavish followers believed just as he did.
 - Opponents rejected as much of his teaching as possible.
 - Independent students benefited from his teaching, but trusted in Scripture. Ac.17:11

I. Work

II. Best

III. Converted

IV. Taught

Class is in session

- Acts 11:26
- Acts 15, dangers
 - The need for continuing education
 - Mechanic
 - Bible doesn't change, but people do

I. Work

V. Teach

II. Best

III. Converted

IV. Taught

Acts 13-14

- “Christianity is one beggar telling another beggar where he found bread”
- “But I’m afraid to talk to people”
 - **We can conquer fear!**

I. Work

V. Teach

II. Best

VI. Faith

III. Converted

IV. Taught

Romans 4:18-22

- Abraham believed God even when His promises seemed beyond the hope of fulfillment.

I. Work

V. Teach

II. Best

VI. Faith

III. Converted

VII. Love

IV. Taught

Love includes commandments

- 1 Tim.1:5
- Three words
 1. Purpose: aim, goal, objective (why Paul wrote).
 2. Commandment: military term. Teach no other doctrines or heed fables (3-4).
 3. Love: always does what is right; goes beyond what is required...

Love requires three things

- Love comes from . . .
 1. Pure heart: Prov.4:23. 2 Sm.13; 2 T.3:4
 2. Good conscience: must learn to embrace only what pleases God. Ac.23:1. Jn.8:6
 3. Sincere faith: sinner must learn to shun evil and to embrace good word of God.

Only those who believe His word will love as they should. Ro.12:9

I. Work

V. Teach

II. Best

VI. Faith

III. Converted

VII. Love

IV. Taught

VIII. Judgment

2 Peter 3:11-14

- “Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present”
- Mt.24:36...
 - Tyranny of the urgent
 - Highlights fate of those who fall into ‘*respectable worldliness*’