

TITLE: FIND STRENGTH IN THE LORD GOD, WORSHIP HIM!

TEXT: EPH. 6:10 BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT

- MY HOPE IS THAT YOU WILL LOOK TO GOD FOR STRENGTH IN ORDER THAT YOU WILL OVERCOME WHATEVER IT IS YOU ARE FACED WITH. FOR GOD SAYS WE ARE TO COME BOLDLY TO THE THRONE OF GRACE AND WE WILL FIND HELP' (HEB.4:16).

INTRO

A BABY BIRD IS USUALLY INTRODUCED TO ITS NEW LIFE WITH THE HELP OF A NEST AND ITS FAMILY. A SAFE PLACE WHERE MOTHER BIRD IS ABLE TO PROTECT AND PROVIDE FOR HER YOUNG. YET ONE DAY IT IS EXPECTED THAT EACH BIRD WITH THE HELP OF ITS MOTHER WILL BEGIN TO EXPLORE LIFE BEYOND THE NEST. BUT TO GET THERE THE BABY BIRD WILL NEED TO TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH AND BEGIN TO MAKE USE OF THEIR WINGS AND FLY. THIS HAS TO BE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR THE GROWING BIRDS AND I IMAGINE EVEN FOR THE MOTHER HERSELF. BUT IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, THE YOUNG BIRDS MUST BEGIN TO TRY OUT THEIR GOD-GIVEN ABILITIES. IN SOME WAYS, THIS IS US AS WE BEGIN TO PRAY AND PUT OUR FAITH INTO ACTION.

WILL YOU ALLOW HIM TO LEAD YOU & HELP YOU?

YOU SEE, I WANT US TO SOAR ALONGSIDE OTHERS TODAY WHO WILL AGREE WITH GOD AND BEGIN TO PURSUE HIS DESIRES OVER OUR OWN. TO GO AFTER THE LIFE HE WANTS FOR US, A LIFE OF HOLINESS, WHERE EVIL IS SILENCED AND ONLY GOD WHO IS HOLY IS GIVEN OUR COMPLETE, UNDIVIDED ATTENTION. YOU CAN SPEAK TO THOSE THINGS IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU KNOW IS NOT RIGHT, MAYBE EVEN THINGS THAT NO ONE ELSE MAY EVEN SEE, BUT I WANT YOU TO GIVE GOD ROOM TO SPEAK. AS FOR ME, I CHOOSE TO GIVE HIM MY VOICE, MY HANDS, MY HOPES, AND EVEN MY DREAMS. I CHOOSE TO GIVE HIM MY HEART SO THAT HE ALONE CAN SPEAK INTO IT AND STIR UP THE THINGS WHICH HE ALONE DESIRES. I BELIEVE GOD WANTS TO MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO THE WORLD AGAIN – DO YOU? I BELIEVE TODAY IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO GO AFTER GOD TOGETHER, SO THAT HIS PERFECT WILL WOULD BE DONE TODAY – NOT ONLY IN ME, BUT IN EACH OF US.

AS CHRISTIANS WE KNOW THAT CHRIST CAME TO THE EARTH SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. AND THROUGH HIS SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS WE NOW HAVE A WAY TO KNOW GOD IN WAYS THAT WERE NEVER BEFORE POSSIBLE. THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD HELPS US TO KNOW THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS WORLD, AND THAT WE HAVE THE HELP WE NEED TO OVERCOME WHATEVER IT IS THAT WE ARE FACING. BECAUSE OF JESUS WHO WAS ONCE DEAD AND IS NOW ALIVE - WE CAN LIVE WITH CONFIDENCE AND ASSURANCE THAT WITH GOD, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

Q: ANY IDEA WHAT WORSHIP WILL LOOK LIKE ONCE WE PLACE OUR TRUST IN CHRIST JESUS?

DEUT.11:1-28

(VS8) "... BE CAREFUL TO OBEY EVERY COMMAND I AM GIVING YOU TODAY, SO YOU MAY HAVE STRENGTH TO GO IN AND TAKE OVER THE LAND YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENTER.

1. GOD DOES NOT WANT US TO LIVE IGNORANT OF HIS LOVE, OR WEAK AND IMPOVERISHED LIVES – HE WANTS US TO LIVE FULL LIVES, ENJOYING IT ALL WITH HIM.

(VS22) "... SHOW LOVE TO THE LORD YOUR GOD BY WALKING IN HIS WAYS AND HOLDING TIGHTLY TO HIM.

1. **Q:** HOW MIGHT GOD DEAL WITH THE SITUATIONS YOU ARE FACED WITH TODAY?
2. STOP AND LISTEN WITH THE HELP OF GOD'S SPIRIT AND HIS WRITTEN WORD. BE ENCOURAGED. FIND EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE TO LEARN HOW OTHERS MIGHT RESPOND.

(VS26) "LOOK, TODAY I AM GIVING YOU THE CHOICE BETWEEN A BLESSING AND A CURSE!

1. TO BE BLESSED, WE MUST PLACE OUR TRUST IN GOD AND BEGIN TO ACCEPT THAT HE WILL NEVER LEAVE US NOR FORSAKE US. AND WHILE WE ARE UNDER HIS CARE, HE WILL DO JUST THAT. GIVING US EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED. HIS UNDIVIDED ATTENTION/ LOVE.

HEB.9:1-15

(VS1) THAT FIRST COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND ISRAEL HAD REGULATIONS FOR WORSHIP AND A PLACE OF WORSHIP HERE ON EARTH.

1. WORSHIP TODAY WILL LOOK A WHOLE LOT DIFFERENT FOR US, BUT THERE IS STILL A PLACE THAT WE MUST BEGIN TO OCCUPY. NOT ONLY SO GOD CAN RECEIVE FROM US THAT WHICH HE DESERVES (OUR PRAISE & BLESSING) BUT ALSO SO THE DEVIL DOESN'T TAKE AWAY FROM US (OUR PRAISE & BLESSING) THAT WHICH HE DOESN'T DESERVE.

(VS8) BY THESE REGULATIONS THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED THAT THE ENTRANCE TO THE MOST HOLY PLACE WAS NOT FREELY OPEN AS LONG AS THE TABERNACLE AND THE SYSTEM IT REPRESENTED WERE STILL IN USE.

1. **CHANGE WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER FOR THE PEOPLE TO TRULY WORSHIP GOD.**

(VS9) ...FOR THE GIFTS AND SACRIFICES THAT THE PRIESTS OFFER ARE NOT ABLE TO CLEANSE THE CONSCIENCES OF THE PEOPLE WHO BRING THEM.

(VS11) SO CHRIST HAS NOW BECOME THE HIGH PRIEST OVER ALL THE GOOD THINGS THAT HAVE COME...

(VS12) WITH HIS OWN BLOOD – HE ENTERED THE MOST HOLY PLACE ONCE FOR ALL TIME AND SECURED OUR REDEMPTION FOREVER.

(VS14) ...THE BLOOD OF CHRIST WILL PURIFY OUR CONSCIENCES FROM SINFUL DEEDS SO THAT WE CAN WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD...

(VS15) THAT IS WHY HE IS THE ONE WHO MEDIATES A NEW COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND PEOPLE, SO THAT ALL WHO ARE CALLED CAN RECEIVE THE ETERNAL INHERITANCE GOD HAS PROMISED THEM. FOR CHRIST DIES TO SET THEM FREE FROM THE PENALTY OF THE SINS THEY HAD COMMITTED UNDER THAT FIRST COVENANT.

MATT.11:16-30

(VS16) “TO WHAT CAN I COMPARE THIS GENERATION? IT IS LIKE CHILDREN PLAYING A GAME IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE. THEY COMPLAIN TO THEIR FRIENDS,

(VS17) ‘WE PLAYED WEDDING SONGS, AND YOU DIDN’T DANCE, SO WE PLAYED FUNERAL SONGS, AND YOU DIDN’T MOURN.’

1. LIFE IS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUS. SO WHY WOULDN’T WE BRING EVERYTHING TO GOD AND HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT HE ALSO SEES THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR PETITION.
2. MANKINDS SOLUTIONS WILL NEVER SATISFY. WHEN YOU HAVE A BIG PROBLEM, YOU NEED TO LOOK TO A BIG GOD.

(VS27) JESUS SAYS – MY FATHER HAS ENTRUSTED EVERYTHING TO ME.

(VS28) THEN JESUS SAID, “COME TO ME, ALL OF YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND CARRY HEAVY BURDENS, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.”

(VS29) TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU. LET ME TEACH YOU, BECAUSE I AM HUMBLE AND GENTLE AT HEART, AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

(VS30) FOR MY YOLK IS EASY TO BEAR, AND THE BURDEN I GIVE YOU IS LIGHT.”

END

BECAUSE OF JESUS WE NOW KNOW GOD, AND HOW MUCH HE REALLY LOVES US. AND IF WE ARE READY FOR HIS HELP, ALL WE NEED TO DO IS TO GO TO CHRIST JESUS & HUMBLE OURSELVES SO THAT HE CAN DO WHAT HE LONGS TO DO. GIVE US PEACE. JOY. CONFIDENCE. CLARITY. HOPE. STRENGTH. LOVE. ALL THAT IS GOOD, PURE, HOLY. GOD WANTS TO GIVE YOU.

Q: WHAT CHANGES ARE YOU WILLING TO MAKE SO THAT YOU CAN TRULY WORSHIP GOD?