

## **Stronger Empowering your future - part 2**

**Recap:** We started last week a series of messages about being strong in this season and growing in strength for what is ahead.

Last week, we looked into the life of Elijah and identified that if we want to be strong in God, we need to pay attention to

1. Whether we are isolated or connected (there is power in association, danger in isolation)
2. The messengers we allow access into our lives
3. The messages we feed on
4. The visions we carry inside
5. The direction we run
6. Letting the word abide in us

### **Opening texts**

**Prov. 24:10** – *“If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small”*.

**Jeremiah 12:5** – *“If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?”*

When I first read these two verses, I understood that from God’s perspective, weakness is not an option, we have to be strong! I felt challenged and stirred within myself to understand how to be strong in God.

### **Not a suggestion**

**Joshua 1:9** - *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

From the first 5 books of the Bible, the Torah, to Revelation we’re commanded as God’s people to be strong. In the New Testament, we are told to be

- Strong in the grace of Jesus

**2 Timothy 2:1** - *you therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

- Strong in faith

**1 Corinthians 16:13** - *Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.*

- Strong in the power of God

**Ephesians 6:10** - *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

There is no doubt that God wants His people strong!

### **Where does this strength come from?**

- 1. It is about ‘Who you know’**

**Daniel 11:32b** - *...but the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits.*

**2 Samuel 22:32-33** - <sup>32</sup> *“For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? <sup>33</sup> God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect.*

When you know God, you experience His strength.

## **2. It is about what you hear**

There are voices directed at us that come from the enemy and the purpose of those words is to weaken us and to make us afraid. That is what Jezebel did to Elijah (as we saw last week).

**Nehemiah 6:9** - <sup>9</sup> *For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, “Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done.” Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.*

**Psalms 119:28** - *My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word.*

We need to shift our attention to God’s word! We need to shift our focus to what God is saying. The more word we have the stronger we are.

**1 John 2:14** - *I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.*

**Acts 15:32** - *Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.*

Obviously, these were not simply men’s words but the Word of God to them.

**2 Chronicles 32:7-8** - *Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him. <sup>8</sup> With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.*

**Daniel 10:18-19** - *Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me. <sup>19</sup> And he said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!” So, when he spoke to me, I was strengthened, and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”*

## **3. It is about vision**

**Deuteronomy 34:7** - *<sup>7</sup> Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim, nor his natural vigour diminished.*

What an example of a man who goes back to his Creator healthy and strong. What was the secret of his strength?

**Hebrews 11:27** - *By faith he [Moses] forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.*

Is it possible to fight huge battles and grow in strength? Is it possible to go through life with all its challenges and finish well? Is it possible to overcome seemingly impossible circumstances?

Yes – if we set our eyes on Him.

*He endured as seeing Him who is invisible.* The word in Greek for ‘endured’ is *ketercho* which means “*to be strong*” or “*to grow in strength*”

Moses grew in strength because he looked to Him who is invisible!

There is definitely a connection between vision and strength:

***Isaiah 40:26, 28-29 - Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing.***

...

*28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.*

Lift up your eyes – ELEVATE your vision! Let the vision you carry in your life, be filled with God – who He is, His greatness and His power. Set your eyes on the possibilities of God.

Moses grew in strength as he looked to Him who is invisible!

### **Conclusion**

We are commanded by God to be strong – not in ourselves but strong in the kind of strength that comes from knowing Him, knowing His Word – giving it a preferential place in our minds and hearts and, having our eyes fully set on Him.