

# The secret to live well and finish strong

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

**Introduction:** 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? Is it possible to face setbacks but come back to fight another day?

Yes. In fact, there are plenty of stories like that in the Bible. About people like Moses...

*“who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouth of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong” ... – Hebrews 11:33-34*

We need to look at the example of these uncommon people. They faced huge obstacles, fought impossible odds. However, out of weakness were made strong! They lived well and finished strong.

I learned what I am sharing with you today early in my Christian walk, during a time of great personal struggle. I faced such an intense attack that I thought, at one point, that I was going to lose my mind, that I was too far gone, that my problem was too great and that there was no way back.

And as **Psalms 40:2** says, *God brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps.*

Out of that difficult time, early in my Christian walk, early in my 20's, the Lord showed me 4 lessons to walk strong. I have applied these to my life ever since.

So, how to fight battles and grow in strength? How to live well and finish strong?

## 1. Consider the heroes of faith

**Hebrews 6:12b** - *imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

One of my favourite heroes of the faith listed in Hebrews 11, is Moses. What was the secret of his strength?

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

*By faith... not fearing* – Faith cancels fear. Fear weakens and depletes you, but faith makes you strong on the inside.

Faith is a sustaining force: *“the just shall live by faith”* (Hebrews 10:38)

**1 John 5:4** - *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith.*

Early in my walk I realised that I needed to develop my faith muscle. All those heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11 taught me how to do it. Their example fuelled my faith.

## **2. Consider Jesus**

Moses “*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 had battles but grew in strength, seeing Him who is invisible.

**Hebrews 12:2** - *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*

Moses grew in strength and his eyes were not dim – the same eyes that were focused on God. Looking to Jesus will sustain your vision, your focus and you will finish strong!

**2 Chronicles 20:12** - *O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.*”

## **3. Consider the possibilities of heaven**

We need to set our eyes on Jesus. One of the ways of looking to Jesus is to see Him in the Word. We can see clearly who Jesus is and how He operated, in the Scriptures.

Let us find Him Matthew 14:

**Matthew 14: 16-19** - *16 But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” 17 And they said to Him, “We have **here only** five loaves and two fish.” 18 He said, “Bring them here to Me.” 19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and **looking up to heaven**, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.*

The disciples looked down to the problem, but Jesus looked up to heaven!

In another passage, we also read:

**Mark 7:34** - *Then, **looking up to heaven**, He sighed, and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”*

Jesus set His eyes on the invisible (but real) realm of God. He considered the possibilities of that realm more than the impossibilities of this realm.

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18** - *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, <sup>18</sup> while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

**Isaiah 40:26; 28-29** - <sup>26</sup>*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.*

<sup>28</sup>*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. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.*

#### **Genesis 13:14**

<sup>14</sup>*And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward;*

#### **4. Consider the Word**

We need to set our eyes on the heroes of the faith, on Jesus, on the possibilities of heaven and lastly, on what God says: His word.

**Habakkuk 2:1** - *I will stand my watch and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me, and what I will answer when I am corrected.*

**Revelation 1:12** *Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands*

See the voice! ... what an interesting statement.

**Jeremiah 2:31** - *“O generation, see the word of the Lord!...”*

Set your eyes on God’s word. God’s voice is His word. Our eyes must be fixed on the promises of God.

**Jeremiah 1:11-12** - <sup>11</sup>*Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?” And I said, “I see a branch of an almond tree.” <sup>12</sup>Then the Lord said to me, “You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word.”*

**Hebrews 11:3** - *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

The Voice created them! We need to see His voice. His voice is invisible but has the power to impact our visible circumstances.

**TL Osborne** wrote, “when God speaks (get this) all the creative power that was drawn upon when He spoke the worlds into existence again goes into action. His

*words spoken today are just as effective, just as powerful, yes, just as creative, as they were when the worlds were framed by the word of God”*

We need to consider His Word, believe it, and stand on it. It will come to pass.

### **Conclusion**

Finally, **Hebrews 11:26** says that Moses *looked to the reward*.

The word “looked” in the Greek is *apobedo* which means “To look away from everything else in order to look intently at one object”.

That is how Moses’s eyes were not dim and his vigour did not diminish at 120! He kept looking in the right direction, he kept considering God and nothing else.

**Let us live our lives looking in the right direction:**

- **Looking at those heroes of the faith that have gone before us and have shown us how it is done: by faith.**
- **Looking at Jesus (author and finisher of our faith)**
- **Looking at the possibilities of heaven (open over our lives)**
- **Looking at what the Word says and make it, final authority in our lives**