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**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 52

## **He Increases Strength**

Isaiah 40:29-31 (ESV)

*He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

I have been taking the time to read this passage before leaving the house in the morning. And in a peculiar way, when I read it with the heart filled with faith, I can see that there are many reasons to grow weary and faint in this life in our struggle against the flesh to become more like Christ. However, it is necessary to understand this weakness if you will, because it points us to the strength that God provides. And although there are many reasons to grow weary and faint in our struggle against the flesh, we see that God is greater than them all and desires that we have His strength to be renewed with. This very plainly instills hope within and encouragement for the day.

Now, when I began to break this passage down to meditate on it, I realized that it is indeed a very common passage of Scripture, so I wanted a fresh perspective on it. Not a new perspective but a fresh one. As I went further in this study, I learned that the word power can be likened to the power that Samson had from God to be a deliverer for His people. This is interesting to me because it goes along with the context of this passage.

To reiterate the picture of Samson, we must realize that the source of his power was God, but it was kept by the Nazarite vow which meant that Samson was not to shave his head along with many other things. Basically, this power was from God sealed in a vow. It is amazing because Samson split his loyalty between God and women and eventually gave a woman the secret to his power. She betrayed him and so the story goes. Samson's captors shaved his head and then the power that made him who he was disappeared.

The truth is that the struggle against sin is real and something far more serious than we take account of. It is set up to destroy the person and the anointing that God has given to us and so rob us of God's power in our lives. Many people are walking around and depleted of God's power in their lives because of some other loyalty. They come in all shapes and sizes.

But the point I am trying to get to is that this was not the end for Samson, nor is it the end for any believer who finds themselves in a similar situation. You see the story ends with Samson asking God one more time to give him the power so that he can defeat the enemies of God's people. The one thing that the devil does not count on is our getting back up and seeking God with all of our hearts. Or in other words, to wait upon Him and have our power and strength renewed.

Have you noticed a lack of power in your life? I know at times I have. This is not the end of the line. While we still have breath in our lungs we can turn to God and wait upon Him. The idea of waiting upon God for this renewed power speaks of intention. To clarify, I mean that waiting upon the Lord is when we see the specific lack in our lives where we have grown weary and faint and we bring this very specific area to God with a heart full of intention and perseverance and we do not stop until He has issued us the renewed power.

The word wait in this context is the Hebrew word *qavah* and according to Strong (1890) means

*gather together, look, patiently, tarry, wait for, on, upon*

*A primitive root; to bind together (perhaps by twisting), i.e. Collect; (figuratively) to expect -- gather (together), look, patiently, tarry, wait (for, on, upon).*

I really like and can relate to the part that reads '*to bind together*'. I say this because it speaks to me of returning with full loyalty and without reservation. In other words, to be bound together again to God whereby we receive His renewed strength. This is interesting also because of the idea we discussed earlier about Samson's Nazarite vow and his broken loyalty. It is imperative to return to the vow which could speak of being bound together.

Now, what can we make of all of this?

Well, we should protect by the anointing in us what God has entrusted to us and live free from sin and disloyalty of any kind. In short, if our right eye causes us to sin, we should pluck it out.

However, if we should one day find ourselves distant from God and weary and

lacking His power (as we all will at some point), we have this promise that we can wait upon the Lord and renew our strength and power and mount up with wings like eagles. Such a mighty and compassionate God we serve! If you are lacking power, return to the Lord with every ounce of faith and intention so that He will again renew you and restore you. There is no valley so low whether ending up there by chance or by choice that God cannot reach you still. Rise up and be bound again to Jesus and persevere therein, surely you will find your strength at the wells of His salvation. Draw near and stay until your soul is renewed.

No matter where you are at in life, whether on the mountain top living in victory or suffering from the choices you have made there is a God who actually desires you to come to Him and wait upon Him. He desires to give you strength in your weakest moment. After all, isn't that what salvation is all about. He loves you no matter where you are and is waiting on you to wait upon Him. He will surely raise you up on eagles wings.

Father, You are just so gracious and merciful. Help us to realize this, especially in our hour of trial and weariness. Surely these times come upon us all at some time or another. For this reason, give us the inner inclination to arise and go to Jesus and to just wait until we are renewed. There is no condemnation for those who choose to live after the Spirit so we can freely come without shame. However, we can not do this on our own to any degree. Every facet of our life must be submitted to You so that we can live by Your Spirit and power. So give us an overflow of grace this hour and draw us nearer than ever before as You accomplish that which is pleasing in Your sight through us and in us. Then we will mount up with wings like eagles and soar high above everything that would try to draw us away from You, in Jesus name. Amen.

Strong, James (1890). Strong's exhaustive concordance of the Bible. Abingdon Press.

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