

Dancing In The Storm

LESSON 5

STANDING STRONG IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. “ (Ephesians 6:10,11 NKJV)

Have you ever wondered why Paul started off his instructions for putting on the armor with “*stand*”?

Life can be hard. It can mean getting knocked off your feet over and over and crying out to God for help in summoning the strength to stand. Praise God, He is *always* willing to reach down, take us by the hand, and pull us to our feet.

In life's storms, we are often bombarded by winds of pain and loss, which can knock us off our feet. Our struggles can feel impossible to overcome. On our own, we are weak and can do nothing. But, if we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are infused with the power and might supplied by our Heavenly Father. It is there. Waiting for us to access it when we need it. Each time we need it.

Before we are born, God has a plan for us. We are given all the gifts we will need although many of these gifts may not be revealed to us until God is ready. When we are called into His service, we do not get all the information about His plan. Sometimes we get one step at a time.

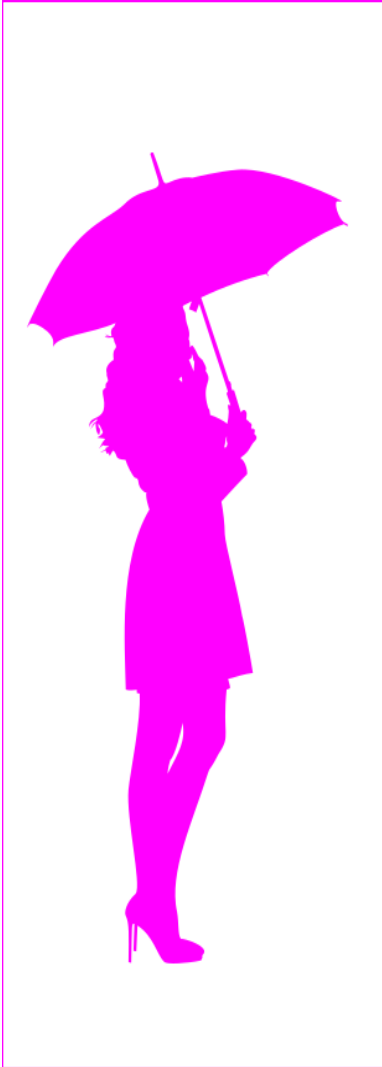
There is a reason we do not know the future. Who could bear to live if we knew the hardships we would face. Think of the living with the dread of knowing the date, time, and manner of the death of our loved ones, or our own? Living one day at a time



STRONG

DEFINITION:

Ephesians 6:10,22.....	1-2
Isaiah 41:3.....	3
Joshua 1:9.....	3
Deuteronomy 31:6.....	3
1 Corinthians 16:13.....	3
Isaiah 41:3.....	3
Psalms 28:7.....	4
Psalms 73:26.....	4
Psalms 29:11.....	4
Psalms 119:28.....	4
1 Chronicles 16:11.....	5
Isaiah 35:4.....	5
Isaiah 41:6.....	5
1 Peter 5:10.....	5
Luke 22:41-45.....	6
Isaiah 12:2.....	6



EPHESIANS 6:10,11

is hard enough for anyone to bear.

When the angel, Gabriel appear to young Mary, he shares news that was sure to knock her off her feet. She, a virgin, will give birth to a son. He will be the promised Messiah.

In faith, Mary accepts this miracle. Mary's answer is "*Behold the handmade of the Lord. Be it unto me according to thy word.*" (See Luke 1:38) Mary knows what could happen to her if it is discovered she is pregnant and not yet married.

She steps out in faith because she trusts in God's plan for her life and because she has no idea of the heartache involved.

When Gabriel tells her about Jesus' birth, he really does not give her a lot of information that will help her in the practical day to day life of her son. In faith, she accepts the miracle. She does not have the whole story. We are told many instances where she is bewildered by her son and other people's reactions to him.

Certainly, from the day of the angel's visitation, Mary must draw on the strength of God to get her through. With faith and trust she takes each day as it comes. Each new trial strengthens her for the next. Until, finally, she faces the torture and crucifixion of her son—the child she had carried inside her, nursed at her breast, and raised to a man. She needs the strength and power of God's might to survive that.

We hear nothing from Mary as her son is beaten and humiliated. We hear nothing from her as she stares up at him hanging on the cross. I imagine that all the love in her heart is shining up at him through her tear-filled eyes.

I believe that this moment, more than any other time in her life, is why Mary represents someone trusting in the power and might of God. This is surely when her faith would falter if He did not give her strength.

Why is she silent? She could have shouted, "He is *just* a man!"

A mother's cries might have assured people he had grandiose ideas, but he was *just* a man. They did not need to *fear* him. They did not need to *crucify* him.

But she is silent.

This more than anything else in her story testifies to both the truth of Jesus' virgin birth and her quite acceptance and faith in God's plan.

God, in his love, loaned her His strength and the power of His might, to stand at the foot of the cross in silence.

GOD'S STRENGTH

When a man has no strength, if he leans on God, he becomes powerful.

D. L. Moody

STRENGTH FROM GOD

Read: Isaiah 41:3

Why are we told not to fear? _____

Why are we told not to be dismayed? _____

God said He will _____ and _____;

He will _____

Read: Joshua 1:9

"Be _____ and _____; do not be
_____ and do not be _____, for the Lord
your God is _____ you _____ you go." (Joshua 1:9 KJV)

Read: Deuteronomy 31:6

"Be _____ and _____. Do not _____
or be in _____ of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes _____ you.
He will not _____ you or _____ you." (Deuteronomy 31:6 KJV)

Read: 1 Corinthians 16:13

God calls us to:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

READ: Isaiah 40:29

What does God give the weak? _____

What does God give the powerless? _____

In what way has God given to you?



**JEHOVAH is our
Strength**

**JEHOVAH is our strength,
And He shall be our song
We shall o'ercome at
length
Although our foes be
strong.
In vain does Satan then
oppose,
For God is stronger than
His foes.**

**The Lord our refuge is
And ever will remain;
Since He has made us His
He will our cause maintain.
In vain our enemies
oppose,
For God is stronger than
His foes.**

**The Lord our shepherd is;
He knows our every need,
And since we now are His,
His care our souls will feed.
In vain do sin and death
oppose,
For God is stronger than
His foes.**

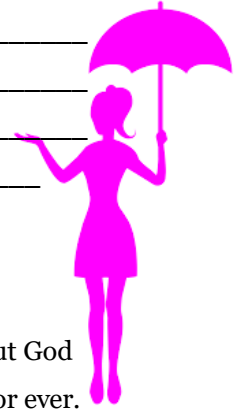
**Our God our Father is;
Our names are on His heart;
We ever will be His,
He ne'er from us will part.
In vain the mightiest powers
oppose,
For God is stronger than His
foes.**

William H. Havergal

READ: Psalm 28:7

“The LORD is my _____ and my _____;
my heart trusted in him, and I am _____: therefore
my heart greatly; and with my song will I praise him.

What do you think is the meaning of this verse?



READ: Psalm 73:26

“My _____ and my _____ faileth: but God
is the _____ of my heart, and my portion for ever.

READ: Psalm 29:11

“The Lord will give _____ unto his people; the Lord
will bless his people with _____.”

READ: Psalm 119:28

“My soul _____ for heaviness: _____
thou me according unto thy _____.”

READ: Psalm 27:14

“_____ on the LORD: be of good _____, and he
shall _____ thine heart: _____, I say,
on the LORD.”

READ: Psalm 31:24

“Be of good _____, and he shall _____
your heart, all ye that _____ in the LORD.”

Stand Strong in Your Storm

In life we go through many storms. Despite what others say, God never promises that things will be “easy peasy” if we serve Him. Yet, we can rest in His promise that He never calls us to do anything that we cannot handle with His help. He is there in every storm with you. Most importantly, that storm you went through, the one that nearly broke you, the one that would have destroyed you if God had not held you up, was not in vain. God will use *your* story to help someone else. You may be the only person who can console that single mom. You may be the only person who can share hope with that woman with breast cancer. You may be the only person to help that woman overcome with grief. *Your* story may be the *only* story that will lead someone to Christ. **Stand Strong.**

“Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always.”

1 Chronicles 16:11

READ: Isaiah 35:4

“Say to them that are of a _____ heart, Be _____,
_____ not: behold, your God _____ come with vengeance, even
God with a recompence; he _____ come and _____ you.”

READ: Isaiah 41:6

“They _____ every one his _____; and every one said to his
brother, Be of good _____.”

READ: I Peter 5:10

After He has restored us, the God of Grace will make us

1. _____, 2. _____, and 3. _____.

What does this verse tell us about suffering? _____

What does this meant to you? _____





READ: LUKE 22: 41-45

Verse 41: He walked a stone's throw away from the disciples and _____ and _____.

Verse 42: He said "Father, if you are _____, take this cup _____. Yet, not my _____, but _____ be done."

Verse 43: An _____ appeared, _____ him.

Verse 44: In great _____, He prayed and his sweat was like _____.

Can you imagine the spiritual, emotional, and physical pain and stress of taking on the past, present, and future sins of the entire world?! God sent help (strength) right when he needed it, not one second early and certainly not one second later.

After he was arrested, Jesus was taken to stand before the p_____. Then Jesus was taken to stand before P_____. Then he was taken to stand before H_____, and then P_____ again. Now, Christ, our intercessor, **stands** in the courts of Heaven before G_____ the F_____ on our behalf.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." (Revelation 3:20a)

READ: EXODUS 15:2

"The Lord is my _____ and my _____; he has given me _____. This is my _____, and I will _____ him— my father's _____, and I will _____ him."

READ: ISAIAH 12:2

"Surely God is my _____; I will _____ and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my _____ and my _____; he has become my _____."



KIM MARIE JOHNSON
MINISTER/SPEAKER/AUTHOR

706-213-8065

kimmariejohnson@elberton.net

www.timetoriseministries.com

www.kimmariejohnson.net