

# I'm The President

*"My strength faileth because of mine iniquity." Psalm 33:10*

**Wisdom:** "I can't believe God for big" a pastor told me. "When you're a loser, you're a loser." We must prevent ourselves from ever coming to such a state of unbelief. Yesterday, in our continuing study on "believing God for big", we showed the importance of strength. One of the pathways to strength is to say the right things with our mouth. A pastor told me, "I can't believe God for big. When you are a loser, you are a loser." He obviously was saying the wrong thing, which was draining any strength he had. How do we know if we are a loser or not? By what the Word of God says about us. Listen to the following testimonies from our "great cloud of witnesses" who learned how to become strong and to be a winner instead of a loser . . .

Gideon, who was in hiding from the Amorites, was told by an angel: "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor." (Judges 6:12). Gideon apparently didn't see himself that way, and the Amorites probably didn't view him that way. But, God saw a mighty man of valor. Why? Because God was "with" him. On this word, he defeated the Midianites. Is God with us? If He is, then, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31).

**David** was perhaps the mightiest warrior of all time. If anybody could have done it without God's help, it would likely have been David. But what was his confession? "I will go in the strength of the Lord God. I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only." (Ps. 71:16). And again, "The Lord is the strength of my life" Ps. 27:1.

**Job** knew the power of the tongue to bring strength: "I would strengthen you with my mouth." (Job. 16:5).

**Moses** knew where his strength came from: "The Lord is my strength". Ex. 15:2.

**Habakkuk** admitted, "The Lord God is my strength" Hab. 3:19.

**Paul confessed**, "When I am weak then am I strong." (II Cor. 10:2). He also makes perhaps the boldest confession of faith ever given in all of history: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" Phil. 4:13. If God has told us that we should do something, and we confess, "I can't", we are making him a liar (I John 5:10). David sums this truth up in Ps. 29:1, "Give unto the Lord glory and strength". In other words, with your faith, with your praise, with your mouth, glorify God by confessing him alone as your strength! You can believe God for big . . .

But watch out for things that sap our strength. The Word makes it clear that there are principles of power that if violated diminish our strength. Today, I want us to consider **three specific things that can sap or deplete our strength . . .**

**Sin:** In our devotional verse today, David admitted, "My strength faileth because of mine iniquity" Ps. 33:10. When I was still bound by sin, yet sensing God's call on my life to evangelize, I would step out in faith and set up evangelistic crusades. But, each time, primarily because of sin in my life, I would get discouraged and give up the ghost and leave the field. God had to deliver me from the strength of sin before I could be released to do one of the hardest jobs physically and spiritually I have ever done: being a full-time evangelist. What a tragedy that God could not use me effectively for many years because I allowed sin in my life which made "my strength fail". Are you fulfilling God's call on your life, whether to be a church-worker, intercessor, witness, or just a faithful follower of Christ? And, if not, look first at

the sin in your life! I know by experience! Here's the promise to victors: "He that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger." (Job 17:9).

**Lust:** "Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings." (Prov. 31:3). David gave his strength to Bathsheba. Solomon gave his strength to foreign women. Lust was a Goliath in my life for many years. It zapped my strength for both the Christian life and ministry. Once God had delivered me from the terrible bondage I had in this area, He released me to a national evangelistic ministry, and a stronger Christian life and marriage. Men reading this who may be struggling with lust, isn't your prayer life robbed of power? Isn't your praise life with less joyful devotion? Isn't your passion toward the "wife of your youth" diminished? Don't be deceived: "Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil." ( Prov. 12:2). If this is a weakness in your life, get on your face before God and draw from his strength an infusion of power unto deliverance (Prov. 4:23). And, if you would like to have a study on overcoming lust that I have presented to many men's groups, just email me and request it at [deawarford@hotmail.com](mailto:deawarford@hotmail.com);

**Pride:** "Uzziah was marvelously helped until he was strong. But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his own destruction." (II Chronicles 26:15, 16). I am by nature very proud, and have paid the price for it. For instance, in my male chauvinism, I don't especially like women telling me what to do. One day, my wife and mother were taking me to the airport to fly out for a crusade. I had my computer in one hand, and suitcase in the other. My wife kept saying she thought I should keep the computer inside my case, afraid I might absent-mindedly leave it somewhere. I kept assuring her I wouldn't forget it. But, she felt so strongly about it (knowing me so well!) that she kept on and on about it. Finally, I closed the subject by saying, "I'm the president of Warford Ministries. And, I know what to do with my computer!" They dropped me off and waited a moment for me to check my luggage at the skycap's desk. I did, and as I walked away, Kathy cried out the car window, "Oh Dea, you forgot your computer!" Looking back, I saw that I had put my computer up on the desk and had walked away leaving it behind. Chagrined and humiliated, I burst out laughing and slithered back to the desk to retrieve my computer. My wife and mother drove away roaring with laughter at the all-knowing "President of Warford Ministries".

How I wish that was the only time I had to eat crow; but I could bore you with story after story of how the Lord has had to deal with my pride. We must be sure of this truth: the degree of strength with which the Lord can entrust us with, is commensurate with the degree of humility in our life. As we studied a few days back, just one man was entrusted to lead God's people out of Egyptian bondage-Moses. What kind of man was this man who single-handedly delivered 3 million people? "Moses was very meek (humble), above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." (Num. 12:3). Whether God can entrust you with 3 gifts of the Spirit, 3 million dollars, or 3 million people is to a great extent determined by your meekness, which is really your sense of your weakness. This meekness; this honest and accurate appraisal of how utterly dependent upon God you are is the very thing that allows God to pour His great strength upon you: strength which is necessary to "believe God for big" and be a winner!

**Prayer:** "Father, help me to learn from others in the Bible who learned to draw from the resource of Your Strength. Deliver me from any sin, lust or pride that might diminish Your power in me."

**Confession:** "I will not allow any sin to sap me of strength."