

Strengthen Thy Brethern

Lesson 1 - Be Strong in the Lord

Goals for This Series

- To know what it means to be born into the family of God
- To learn that God brings us to the end of ourselves so that we will find strength in Him
- To understand that in the midst of suffering we have hope in Jesus Christ
- To see that God's children are strangers and pilgrims in this world
- To recognize that we as believers must live our lives to honor our Savior and to point others to Him
- To develop a greater love for the Lord Jesus and a greater zeal to take the gospel message to the lost

Key Verses

Luke 22:31-32 ³¹ And the Lord said, **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:** ³² **But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.**

1 Peter 5:10-11 ¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who **hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus,** after that **ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.** ¹¹ To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Luke 22:24-34 ²⁴ And there was also a strife among them, **which of them should be accounted the greatest.** ²⁵ And he said unto them, **The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.** ²⁶ But ye *shall not be* so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. ²⁷ For whether *is* greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? *is* not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth. ²⁸ Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. ²⁹ And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; ³⁰ That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ³¹ And the Lord said, **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:** ³² But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. ³³ And he said unto him, **Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.** ³⁴ And he said, **I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.**

There is the answer when **failing and falling under Satan's attack.** Jesus wanted Peter to know three things.

1. **Jesus is the believer's Intercessor.** He was Peter's advocate before God. **He had prayed that Peter's faith would not fail.** This means Jesus prayed that Peter would not *permanently fall*, that his faith would not **totally fail and be absolutely ruined,** that he would not make a *final and lasting denial* of Jesus. Peter and the others would stumble and fall, but Jesus prayed that they would...

- not remain down.
- not stay in sin.
- not make a final and lasting rejection.
- not desert forever.

*"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. **And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world**" (1 John 2:1-2).*

*"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make **intercession for them**" (Hebrews 7:25).*

2. The **believer is to turn back to God after falling**. The word "converted" **means to turn around, to turn back to, to turn again**. The believer is to repent, turn back to God.

(Peter's Message after healing the lame man) "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" ([Acts 3:19](#)).

1. Repentance involves two turns. There is a **negative turn away from sin** and **a positive turn toward God**.

2. Repentance is **more than sorrow**. Sorrow may or may not be involved in repentance. A person may repent simply because he wills and acts to change; or a person may repent because he senses an agonizing sorrow within. But the sense or feeling of sorrow is not repentance. Repentance is **both the change of mind** and the **actual turning of one's life away from sin and toward God**.

3. The believer **is to strengthen his brothers once he has returned to God**. The believer is to **take what he has learned from falling** and...

- teach others how to find the mercy of God.
- help others who have fallen to return.
- strengthen the faith of others to keep them from falling.

"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" ([James 5:19-20](#)).

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinner shall be converted unto thee" ([Psalm 51:12-13](#)).

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 ¹² Wherefore **let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall**. ¹³ There hath **no temptation taken you but such as is common to man**; but **God is faithful**, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but **will with the temptation also make a way to escape**, that ye **may be able to bear it**.

We know from God's Word that we must trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. We must also learn that it is impossible to live the Christian life unless we depend entirely on the Lord.

The struggle is with all the things we call our strengths that are really weaknesses.

The Scriptures will Make us Strong

2 Peter 1:20-21 ²⁰ Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.** ²¹ For **the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man;** but **holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ¹⁶ **All scripture is given by inspiration of God,** and **is profitable** for 1)doctrine, 2)for reproof, 3)for correction, 4)for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect (mature), thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

1. Doctrine - God wants man to know beyond doubt **who God is; who man is;** and the **beginning, meaning, and end of all things.** The **Scripture reveals the truth.** The Bible gives man **the principles and rules and foundations for life.**

*"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free**" ([John 8:31-32](#)).*

2. Reproof - God wants man **to sense conviction and to be rebuked when he is disobedient to God's will.**

*"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment....**Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth** [the Word of God]: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come" ([John 16:7-8, 13](#)).*

3. Correction - God wants **man to be set aright when he is wrong.** The Bible teaches obedience by **teaching a person to discipline himself,** even to the point of suffering ([Hebrews 5:8](#)).

*"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by **taking heed thereto according to thy word**" ([Psalm 119:9](#)).*

4. Instruction in Righteousness - God wants **man to know the right things to do,** to think and to say.

Philippians 4:8-9 ⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are **true,** whatsoever things are **honest,** whatsoever things are **just,** whatsoever things are **pure,** whatsoever things are **lovely,** whatsoever things are of **good report;** if there be any **virtue,** and if there be **any praise, think on these things.** ⁹ Those things, which **ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do;** and the **God of peace shall be with you.**

The Sifting Done by Satan makes us Strong

When God allows Satan to “sift” us through trials and temptations, he does so in order to strengthen us to remove the unusable part of us and strengthen the usable.

Luke 22:31-32 ³¹ And the Lord said, **Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:** ³² **But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.**

Romans 5:1-6 ¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And **not only so, but we glory in tribulations also:** knowing that **tribulation worketh patience;** ⁴ And **patience, experience;** and **experience, hope:** ⁵ And **hope maketh not ashamed;** because **the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.** ⁶ For when **we were yet without strength,** in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.**

James 1:2-5 ² My brethren, **count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;** ³ Knowing *this*, that the **trying of your faith worketh patience.** ⁴ But **let patience have her perfect work,** that **ye may be perfect and entire,** wanting nothing. ⁵ If any of **you lack wisdom, let him ask of God,** that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

2 Peter 1:5-8 ⁵ And beside this, **giving all diligence,** add to **your faith virtue;** and to **virtue knowledge;** ⁶ And to **knowledge temperance;** and to **temperance patience;** and to **patience godliness;** ⁷ And **to godliness brotherly kindness;** and to **brotherly kindness charity.** ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they **make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Trials can bring forth these Godly virtues when dealt with through the strength of Jesus

Virtue – moral excellence and goodness of character; moral strength and moral courage.

Knowledge- ractical intelligence, practical knowledge, practical insight. It means knowing what to do in every situation and doing it

Temperance - to master and control the body or the flesh with all of its lusts. It means self-control, the master of desire, appetite and passion, especially sensual urges and cravings.

Patience - endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, constancy, perseverance. The word is not passive; it is active.

Godliness - To live in the reverence and awe of God; to live just as God would live if He were walking upon earth. It means to live seeking to be like God; to seek to possess the very character, nature, and behavior of God.

Brotherly Kindness - the very special love that exists between brothers and sisters within a loving family

Charity - the **love of the mind**, of the reason, of the will. It is the *agapē* love of God, the love that goes so far...

- that **it loves regardless of feelings.**
- that **it loves a person even if the person does not deserve to be loved.**
- that **it actually loves the person who is utterly unworthy of being loved.**

a. **Selfless** love is the **love of God**,

b. Selfless love is **a gift of God**.

c. Selfless love is the **greatest thing in all of life according to the Lord Jesus Christ**.

d. Selfless love is the **greatest possession and gift in human life according to the Scripture** ([1 Cor. 13:1-13](#)).

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity [love], these three; but the greatest of these is charity" ([1 Cor. 13:13](#)).

The Savior's Prayer Make Us Strong

Luke 22:31-32 ³¹ And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *to have* you, that he may sift *you* as wheat: ³² But **I have prayed for thee**, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

John 17:9-10 ⁹ **I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me**; for they are thine. ¹⁰ And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

John 17:15-21 ¹⁵ I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but **that thou shouldest keep them from the evil**. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth**. ¹⁸ As thou hast sent me into the world, even so **have I also sent them into the world**. ¹⁹ And **for their sakes I sanctify myself**, that they also **might be sanctified through the truth**. ²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, **but for them also which shall believe on me through their word**; ²¹ That **they all may be one**; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that **they also may be one in us**: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Hebrews 7:25 ²⁵ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Isaiah 53:10-12 ¹⁰ Yet **it pleased the LORD to bruise him**; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou **shalt make his soul an offering for sin**, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ **He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied**: by his knowledge shall **my righteous servant justify many**; for **he shall bear their iniquities**. ¹² Therefore **will I divide him a portion with the great**, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because **he hath poured out his soul unto death**: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and **he bare the sin of many**, and **made intercession for the transgressors**.

The Spirit Filled Life Makes Us Strong

Acts 2:1-4 ¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly **there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.** ³ And there appeared unto them **cloven tongues like as of fire,** and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,** and began to speak with other tongues, as **the Spirit gave them utterance.**

Pentecost was celebrated fifty days after the Passover. It was also known as the "Day of the First Fruits" ([Numbers 28:26](#)), or the "Feast of Weeks" ([Exodus 34:22](#)), or the "Feast of Harvest."

Pentecost was a glorious day of celebration, a day **when the people were to heap praise and thanksgiving upon God.** There were three particular reasons for which they were to thank God.

1. The harvest of the fields. Note the very name of the Feast says that it is a celebration of the "First Fruits." It was **celebrated when the first fruits of the harvest** began to come in, which was around the first of June. It actually opened the harvest season.

2. The Exodus, the deliverance of the nation Israel from Egyptian bondage ([Deut. 16:12](#)). The people were to thank God for the day **he delivered them out of slavery.**

3. The giving of the law upon Mt. Sinai ([Exodus 19-20](#)). **This was the day the people were constituted as a nation, as the great nation of Israel. They were to live as God's very own people upon earth. They were to thank God for Himself and for His law, the rules and principles He had given to govern their lives and nation.** It is important to note that the Jews figured the law had been given to Moses fifty days after the Exodus.

Now note the providence of God, **how all three events were fulfilled in the coming of the Holy Spirit.**

1. When "Pentecost was fully come" **the first fruits were born—the church itself and the first harvest of souls.** The new beginning, that is, the filling of the Holy Spirit, began fifty days after Jesus' death and resurrection ([Acts 2:4](#)).

2. The coming of the Holy Spirit had a very specific purpose. The Holy Spirit was to live and work within the heart of man, **to deliver and free him from the enslavements of this world**—from sin, death, and hell. The Holy Spirit came to set man at liberty even as God had delivered the Jews out of Egyptian slavery ([2 Cor. 3:17](#); cp. [John 16:8-11](#)).

3. The coming of the Holy Spirit was two things.

- a. It was **the birth of the church**, the new people of God. People who truly came to God were now to be sealed and known by the presence of the Holy Spirit, by His very presence within their hearts and lives.
- b. It was the **institution of the new law**, the new rule and principle of God. Man is now to be guided by the Spirit who empowers him to live right and to serve Christ.

Acts 2:14 ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Acts 2:36 ³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Ephesians 5:18-20 ¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; **but be filled with the Spirit;** ¹⁹ **Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;**

²⁰ **Giving thanks always for all things unto God** and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Much of the commentary comes from Preacher's Outlines and Sermon Bible