

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

February 12, 2013

Issue No. 81 Mark Aites, Editor

## **Strength**

"Anyone can hide. Facing up to things, working through them, that's what makes you strong." – Sarah Dessen

"Strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle." – Napoleon Hill

"In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength." – Robert E. Lee

"Atheism shows strength of mind, but only to a certain degree." – Blaise Pascal

No one likes to think of themselves as weak. But the truth is, we may be weaker than we realize. It is only when we come to terms with this realization that prayerfully we will have a level of humility that allows us to realize that true strength comes from above and not from within.

If you follow the progression through Scripture, you will find it stated many times that the Lord is the source of strength.

"The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation..." (Exod.15:2).

"You have guided them in Your strength" (Exod. 15:13).

"The God of my strength, in whom I trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge..." (2 Sam. 22:3).

"God is my strength and power..." (2 Sam. 22:33).

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my strength, in Whom I will trust" (Psa. 18:2).

"The Lord is my strength and song" (Isa. 12:2).

"O Lord, my strength and my fortress" (Jer. 16:19).

"The Lord God is my strength" (Hab. 3:19).

Paul made mention to the Corinthians of his incident with "the thorn in the flesh." "Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me' (2 Cor. 8-9). Paul had to learn that the true source of strength comes from above.

It should be no surprise to us when we read Paul's admonition, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). Emphasis should be upon the word "all." The Lord provides the strength we need for whatever it is we face.

Long ago, God promised Israel, that if they were obedient He would strengthen them (Isa. 41:10). This is a principle that we should take to heart. If we want God to strengthen us, then we need to be careful to obey His will.