

Introduction

I appreciate the chance to bring this message to <http://omegamanradio.com> on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 10:00 PM EST.

And thanks to our friend Rev. Joseph Cohen at <http://newhopeinthelord.com>

Eric and Noemi Ross

- Prayer Line – 712-432-6100 Code: 35051381 6:00-7:00 am Eastern Time
- <http://prayny.org>
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We That Are Strong

Introduction – 6 min

We all celebrate those who are strong, and in the world, we look at those that win a gold medal or play on the team that wins the championship. My topic tonight centers on “the strong”. But we are Christians and we have a different culture than the world.

Let’s read our main text:

Romans 15:1-3 ASV

(1) Now we that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. (2) Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good, unto edifying. (3) For Christ also pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell upon me.

Now, let’s take talk about this. There is an unstated expectation that there are those in the Church that are strong. And, this is where we see the key difference with the strong in the world, the strong in the Church are to bear the infirmities of the weak. And, even more than that, to bear their reproaches.

תִּרְפוּהָ *Abridged BDB* (6×) (BDB 357.2)

n.f. reproach — 1. *taunt* of enemy; *reproach* cast upon another, *scorn*, *contumely* (slander). 2. *reproach* which rests upon one, condition of *shame*, *disgrace*: a. sexual. b. barrenness of womb...

Dictionary.com says contumely means: insulting display of contempt in words or actions; contemptuous or humiliating treatment.

There is here, room for self-reflection. Are you strong as a human being? Even more important, are you strong in the Lord?

As a Christian, what does it mean to be strong?

Romans 4:17-22 ASV

(17) (as it is written, A father of many nations have I made thee) before him whom he believed, even God, who giveth life to the dead, and calleth the things that are not, as though they were. (18) Who in hope believed against hope, to the end that he might become a father of many nations, according to that

which had been spoken, So shall thy seed be. (19) And without being weakened in faith he considered his own body now as good as dead (he being about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb; (20) yet, looking unto the promise of God, he wavered not through unbelief, but waxed strong through faith, giving glory to God, (21) and being fully assured that what he had promised, he was able also to perform. (22) Wherefore also it was reckoned unto him for righteousness.

Abraham was nor weak in faith, he was strong. He did not doubt God's word to him, he held on to it, and believed God would do what he said he would.

One more verse here:

Ephesians 6:10-11 ASV

(10) Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Being strong in the Lord isn't a natural characteristic that we can improve with physical exercise. There is a spiritual part of it and there is righteousness is part of it.

Let me give you a short example here. Some years ago, I had lower back pain that was incapacitating. So, I went to a Chiropractor because I had previously gotten relief form neck pain. But it didn't help so I went to a Doctor and got an MRI that showed two bad disks. The Doctor said the only relief was surgery. I remember walking out of his office saying to myself that surgery wasn't an option Then I prayed something like "Lord I need help, show me what to do". I went back to the Chiropractor and he said I have done everything I can do. Then he said, when I was a hockey player, inversion therapy helped me. I went to the local sporting goods store, and just inside, was an inversion table on sale. I had never seen one before, but I bought it. In about two weeks, I felt something happen in my back and have been pain free since.

You see, I didn't know James 5:14-16 and didn't have anyone to tell me this:

James 5:14-16 KJV

(14) Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: (15) And the prayer of faith shall save the

sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

(16) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

I share that to make this point,

The Propositional Statement

There are people that are weak, that need help, that are struggling in the world even though Jesus said,

John 16:33 ASV

(33) These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye may have peace. In the world ye have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

And, we that are strong, are to carry the weight, not only of our own faith and walk with God, but also the needs of those around us. As Christians,

"We That Are Strong, Ought to Bear the Infirmities of the Weak."

The Transitional Sentence

Well, let's go back to Hebrews and look at the growth of a Christian, but first, listen to this statement:

We Weren't Born Strong, and We aren't Born Again Strong

Main Body – 48 min

First Point – 12 min

We are born as helpless babies, completely under the care of our parents for very survival. It takes years for us to grow to the point that we can begin to take care of our own needs. And, it is no different in our Christian life. So,

“We That Are Strong, Ought to Bear the Infirmities of the Weak.”

But first let's understand the growth we go through as Christians. Paul said,

Hebrews 5:11-14 ASV

(11) Of whom we have many things to say, and hard of interpretation, seeing ye are become dull of hearing.

So, there are things we can't understand until we are grown enough to understand them. Paul describes this as “dull of hearing”. We aren't hearing right.

Hebrews 5:11-14 ASV

(12) For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that some one teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food. (13) For every one that partaketh of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. (14) But solid food is for fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.

Part of being full grown is

- Knowing the basics of the Christian faith: God came and dwelt among us, God paid the price through the body of Christ on the cross, God raised Jesus from the dead and He is seated with Him in heaven.
- Being able to teach: Able to have a conversation about Christ and deal with the objections people often have, as Jesus did with the woman at the well or with the rich young ruler, or with Nicodemus.

- Having experience in the "word of righteousness": by proving God's word in your own life, by experiencing God's work in your own circumstance.
- With your senses exercised to discern good and evil: So you are able to recognize evil intent, the snare of the devil, and avoid trouble rather than get caught up in it.

He is writing about love for your brother in Christ, the new commandment, which isn't really new.

1 John 2:14 ASV

(14) I have written unto you, fathers, because ye know him who is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the evil one.

He says they were strong because of the word of God abiding in them. And, it is the word of God that is the power of God. Hold this place, and look at what the angel said to Mary:

Luke 1:37 ASV

(37) For no word from God shall be void of power.

Other translations say:

Luke 1:37 KJV

(37) For with God nothing shall be impossible.

What we are missing here though is the Greek work used here which is

rhēma - Thayer Definition is: "that which is or has been uttered by the living voice, thing spoken, word"

And we take it hear to mean, that what God has spoken, will be fulfilled.

1 John 2:20 ASV

(20) And ye have an anointing from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

When I prayed about my back, God showed me what to do. For me, this was as miraculous as receiving sight if I had been blind.

There is a teacher, the Holy Spirit, who will confirm God's word in us. There is a growing in grace and truth that is important in our lives.

2 Timothy 2:14-15 ASV

(14) Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them in the sight of the Lord, that they strive not about words, to no profit, to the subverting of them that hear.

(15) Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth.

Now I am not saying that everyone of us is called to be an Apostle, as Jesus disciples were. And some in the Church would have you believe that every Christian is to serve only in the Church. But this is not where people are. People are in the world, and God wants to reach people.

Here is our challenge, God puts things in our heart to do, and we don't know exactly how they will be accomplished. He has also put His Spirit in us to lead us. Are you taking God's Word and asking Him to teach you? Are you asking Him to lead you?

Are you exercising God's promise to you in your life? You will have an opportunity to exercise your growth.

Let's go on to another main point.

God Gives Grace to the Humble

Second Point – 12 min

Our key proposition here is:

“We That Are Strong, Ought to Bear the Infirmities of the Weak.”

Lets be clear here, what I am not saying is that the weak are humble.

This statement, “God gives grace to the humble” is necessary because, as soon as I say, “We that are strong”, people all want to jump and say yes, I am strong.

What I am saying is that we have this natural human nature that wants to say we are great, we are the leaders, we are the champions. It happened to Jesus disciples, they came to him asking, in:

Matthew 18:1-6 ASV

(1) In that hour came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

After they asked this question, Jesus did not give them an immediate response, instead:

(2) And he called to him a little child, and set him in the midst of them,

Now, as they were looking at the child, ...

(3) and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven. (4) Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (5) And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me: (6) but whoso shall cause one of these little ones that believe on me to stumble, it is profitable for him that a great millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be sunk in the depth of the sea.

Jesus was saying to them, you won't be great in God's Kingdom by what you command people to do. You will be great when you understand what they need and relate to them in a way they can understand. You are great in God's Kingdom if you can deal with them without offending them.

But, God gives grace to the humble.

James 4:6-10 ASV

(6) But he giveth more grace. Wherefore the scripture saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. (7) Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (8) Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye doubleminded. (9) Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. (10) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall exalt you.

It is a "great paradox in Christianity that it makes humility the avenue to glory."¹

It isn't with worldly pride that we have strength, it is with God's grace, and that comes as we yield ourselves to God:

1 Peter 5:5-7 ASV

(5) Likewise, ye younger, be subject unto the elder. Yea, all of you gird yourselves with humility, to serve one another: for God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. (6) Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time; (7) casting all your anxiety upon him, because he careth for you.

¹ Easton, M. G. (1893). In [*Easton's Bible dictionary*](#). New York: Harper & Brothers.

Let me give you a personal illustration. I went to Bible school and took a job working the night shift in a gas station, QuickTrip, they call it in Oklahoma. And it paid enough to cover the basics for my family. One day a regular customer walked in and as he was paying for his coffee, asked me "What are you doing here?". I told him I had come to Bible school and I told him about the industry I had previously worked in. He said send me a resume. I did, and he hired me for a great job with work scheduled around my school time.

Now let's go back to our main text for a minute:

Romans 15:1-3 ASV

(1) Now we that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. (2) Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good, unto edifying. (3) For Christ also pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell upon me.

If we are only operating out of our own strength, we may only be offering what we want to give. What God is asking us to do here, is not to please ourselves, but to see what that person needs. What can we offer that they need? How can we help with what they want in a way that they can use it?

Let's take another main point.

Do Not Pass Judgement on One Another

Third Point – 12 min

We really don't all have the same understanding about who God is and what He wants for our lives. But, that is exactly the point here,

“We That Are Strong, Ought to Bear the Infirmities of the Weak.”

And, we ought to do this because God has accepted them, just as He has accepted us.

Paul also said in

Romans 14:1-5 KJV

(1) Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. (2) For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. (3) Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. (4) Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. (5) One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

What we believe drives our actions, and if we believe God wants us to be vegetarians, that he wants us to only eat herbs, well, OK. Then only eat herbs, but there isn't any condemnation for those that eat meat.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 KJV

(17) Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; (18) That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; (19) Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Did you see that? God gives us richly all things to enjoy. God is not holding anything back. He also says, though, that not everything is "expedient"

1 Corinthians 6:12-17 ASV

(12) All things are lawful for me; but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful for me; but I will not be brought under the power of any. (13) Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall bring to nought both it and them. But the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body: (14) and God both raised the Lord, and will raise up us through his power. (15) Know ye not that your bodies are members of Christ? shall I then take away the members of Christ, and make them members of a harlot? God forbid. (16) Or know ye not that he that is joined to a harlot is one body? for, The twain, saith he, shall become one flesh. (17) But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

He also says,

1 Corinthians 10:23-27 ASV

(23) All things are lawful; but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful; but not all things edify. (24) Let no man seek his own, but each his neighbor's good. (25) Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, eat, asking no question for conscience' sake; (26) for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof. (27) If one of them that believe not biddeth you to a feast, and ye are disposed to go; whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question for conscience' sake.

The best illustration I can think of here is a wedding. You are expected to drink a toast to the bride and groom. But not everyone drinks. But the toast is the custom. Is it OK for us to drink a toast at a wedding? Well, Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding, so I think it is OK to honor the marriage. But, if alcohol has been a problem for you, can you abstain and not drink the toast? I also think that is OK.

And this next section is one of my personal favorites because we see Peter, a great man of God, being prepared him to go to Cornelius, a gentile, a Roman Centurion.

Acts 10:9-15 ASV

(9) Now on the morrow, as they were on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour: (10) and he became hungry, and desired to eat: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance; (11) and he beholdeth the heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending, as it were a great sheet, let down by four corners upon the earth: (12) wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts and creeping things of the earth and birds of the heaven. (13) And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill and eat. (14) But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common and unclean. (15) And a voice came unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, make not thou common.

I am always amazed when I read vs 15 "What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common" because even Peter, a strong leader in the Church, needed an adjustment. None of us have it all, but God is teaching us!

Peter must get over the boundary of his religious thinking to bring the gospel to these gentiles.

And, let's go back to Romans, 14 this time.

Romans 14:1-4 ASV

(1) But him that is weak in faith receive ye, yet not for decision of scruples. (2) One man hath faith to eat all things: but he that is weak eateth herbs. (3) Let not him that eateth set at nought him that eateth not; and let not him that eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. (4) Who art thou that judgest the servant of another? to his own lord he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be made to stand; for the Lord hath power to make him stand.

We aren't able to help people with their infirmities if we are judging them and condemning them. We must be able to accept them, love them, and have the strength of God to deal with their weakness.

1 John 4:17-18 KJV

(17) Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. (18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

There is no condemnation for us because we are covered by the blood of Christ.

One final point.

Edify, Exhort, and Comfort

Fourth Point – 12 min

Where people are weak, they need strength,

“We That Are Strong, Ought to Bear the Infirmities of the Weak.”

And God, is always moved by compassion, to help.

Mark 6:34 ASV

(34) And he came forth and saw a great multitude, and he had compassion on them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

God has chosen us, and we have answered, and we are accepted, and we have a place in His Kingdom

Ephesians 1:3-7 KJV

(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: (4) According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (6) To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. (7) In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

God's plan and purpose is to bring us together

Ephesians 2:19-22 KJV

(19) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; (20) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; (21) In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: (22) In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

What people need, is edification, exhortation, comfort.

1 Corinthians 14:1-3 KJV

(1) Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. (2) For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. (3) But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

Seek the things above, not how people look or act, but how God sees them.

Colossians 3:1-2 KJV

(1) If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. (2) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Put on, repeated twice, and Let the, repeated twice and this gives us a pattern for Christian behavior.

Colossians 3:12-17 KJV

(12) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; (13) Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. (14) And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. (15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (17) And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

We can't fulfill God's will alone. There is a real connection we need with others to be the Church God is calling us to be.

This means getting over ourselves and encouraging one another

The Sermon Conclusion

Conclusion – 6 min

Our main text:

Romans 15:1-3 ASV

(1) Now we that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. (2) Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good, unto edifying. (3) For Christ also pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell upon me.

He then goes on to say,

Romans 15:4-7 ASV

(4) For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope. (5) Now the God of patience and of comfort grant you to be of the same mind one with another according to Christ Jesus: (6) that with one accord ye may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (7) Wherefore receive ye one another, even as Christ also received you, to the glory of God.

Learning is good. The scriptures were given for us, not just to know God, but also to know how to live, how to interact with people around us.

Now let me briefly re-state the main points:

1. We Weren't Born Strong, and We aren't Born Again Strong
2. God Gives Grace to the Humble
3. Do Not Pass Judgement on One Another
4. Edify, Exhort, and Comfort

The message is to recognize the limitations in those that are around us and:

“We That Are Strong, Ought to Bear the Infirmities of the Weak.”

People will come along that are in trouble, that have a wrong understanding of God's love, that maybe don't even know God yet, and we are the hands of God reaching out to them.

Pray: If you have been listening and have never accepted Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life, simply say this prayer with me.

"Dear God,
I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness.
I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died
for my sin and that you raised Him to life.
I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord,
from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will.
I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

If you prayed with me, I want to seal that with a short prayer for you.

"Father,
I thank you for these that have accepted Christ today. Lead them by your
Holy Spirit to a local Church where they can learn more about you and
your plan for their life, In Jesus name, Amen

Pray: For those of you that are Christians, we have a commission to preach this gospel of the kingdom. Go and read Paul's message. Make it your own. And, pray with me now.

"Father,
I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ.
Father, I know it is your desire that all would be saved and come to know
the truth.
I commit myself to this work of ministry and ask you to order my steps
and prepare people by drawing them in.
Prepare moments when I can share the work and love of Jesus Christ with
others.
I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

For those of you that prayed with me, would you please go to prayny.org and add a prayer request so that we can connect with you and continue to pray for the fulfillment of God's plan in your life.

"Preparation time is never wasted time." Dr. Kenneth E. Hagin

"Success is always the result of following the leading of the Holy Spirit." Dr. Kenneth E. Hagin

Thank you for this time on <http://omegamanradio.com>

- Eric and Noemi Ross
- Prayer Line – 712-432-6100 Code: 35051381 6:00-7:00 am Eastern Time
- Send prayer requests to: <http://prayny.org>
- <http://mymarriagementors.org>