

GRACE BIBLE MISSION

Hdqts. Oke-Onitii, P.O. Box, 362

Osogbo

Time: 5.00pm
Every Monday

15/06/2020

STUDIES ON AMOUR OF GOD

STUDY TWO - BE STRONG IN THE LORD

Ephesians 6:10-12

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might"

Verse 10

We cannot defeat the enemy with carnal weapons; we must stand in the strength and power of the Lord. Our own abilities are not enough to overcome the enemy. Spiritual strength and power is through a close personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

1. When the scripture says 'be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might,' what does it mean or what is it saying?
2. According to these scriptural passages Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Colossians 3:1-4; Romans 6:4, 7:6, how is a close relationship with the Lord Jesus developed?
3. Why is Apostle Paul admonishing us to be strong in the Lord Jesus in this spiritual warfare we are engaging in? How important is it to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might?
4. If it is important, then what dangers do we face if we are not strong in the Lord and the power of His might?
 - **There is a danger that we can neglect our relationship with the Lord and allow other things to fill our lives.** Even things that are good can rob us of our spiritual power if we trust in them instead of Christ. We must beware that we do not allow substitutes to replace the power of God in our lives – 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.
 - **There is a danger that our beliefs can become more important to us than maintaining a close relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.** We must be 'rooted and grounded in Christ', Ephesians 3:17, John 15:5. We will not have the armour of God on if we stand for truth and neglect our personal relationship with the Lord through the Word of God and prayer, Col. 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:17. Jesus said 'Without me you can do nothing', John 15:5, but in Christ we are 'more than conquerors', (Romans 8:37). Our relationship with Jesus can be measured by our love for one another.

- **There is a danger that professionalism can replace the need for the power of the Holy Spirit – 1 Corinthians 4:20; 2:4. Why does Paul say the kingdom of God is not in word when our faith is built upon the Word of God?** Spiritual warfare must be in the power of His might. We must always be dependent upon the power of the Holy Spirit – Acts 1:8. The devil is not afraid of words. If we wrestle against the evil merely by quoting scriptures it will not work. The Word of God must be living in us. Methods, abilities and organisational skills are not able to make us victorious over the enemy.
- **There is a danger that good moral living can replace the need for holiness – Matthew 5:20.** Holiness is the life of Christ in us, and scripture calls holiness of life walking in the Spirit – Galatians 5:16. It is the fruit of the new nature, Galatians 5:22-23. Without holiness we cannot see the Lord, Hebrews 12:14. Wearing the armour of God requires standing only in the righteousness of Christ. Our righteousness is as filthy rags, Isaiah 64:6. We are only holy in Christ.
- **There is a danger that our fight can become carnal and without power for spiritual warfare – 2 Corinthians 10:4.**
 - ✓ People are not the enemy. We wrestle against spiritual wickedness in high places. We must love the people - we fight against the spiritual powers that control the people.
 - ✓ Strength in ourselves is weakness in spiritual warfare. We are at our strongest when we are weak in the flesh. Paul wrote 'when I am weak then I am strong'. The church today is often strong in the flesh but has no power for spiritual warfare.
 - ✓ Spiritual warfare is against a mighty hierarchy of evil. Satan leads the hierarchy but under him are rulers, authorities, world powers of darkness, spiritual evil in the heavens. This kind of warfare cannot be fought in the flesh – Ephesians 6:12.

Beware of substituting doctrine for a close personal relationship. Stand 'rooted and grounded in Christ' by maintaining a close relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ through the Word of God and prayer. Beware of professionalism replacing the power of the Holy Spirit. Be sensitive to the moving of the Holy Spirit. Beware of substituting morality for holiness. Stand in the righteousness of Christ. We must be strong in the Lord because our fight is not against flesh and blood but against the powers of darkness. Remember that we do not fight people. It is the spiritual powers that control the people that we fight. ***A spiritual warfare requires spiritual weapons.***