

A BIBLICAL PRESCRIPTION FOR RENEWED STRENGTH.

Isaiah 40:28-31 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding. ²⁹He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength. ³⁰Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: ³¹But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Introduction: I know that this is an Old Testament text and the church was first formed or established on the New Testament. However, the church is made up of people. All born again believers make up the church of God. When we read and understand these verses, we see

ourselves here and hear the Lord speaking to us, giving us the prescription for renewing our strength.

Today as we look around, we no longer see some of those we saw in the past serving the Lord. Many have become weakened and fainted on the way.

Others are going along, but they are tired, weary and weak. The prophet Isaiah reminds us of our weakness and weariness and how we fall.

Isaiah 40:29-30 He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength. ³⁰Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall.

The Word of God points out our failures. As we look at the church, we can see with the eye, the weakness amongst God's people. Our hearts tell us we are so weak at times and weary and so slow to learn the way of victory and power that is there for the children of God.

The prophet Isaiah asked the question in our text at verse 28.

Isaiah 40:28 **Hast thou not known?**
hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting
God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of
the earth, fainteth not, neither is
weary? *there is* no searching of his
understanding.

When one does not know something, it means that he or she is ignorant regarding the facts of that particular thing. In this case, many people are ignorant of the resources at our disposal.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

It was the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, who said in:

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Isaiah asked the question, '**Do you not know?**'

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the universe. He is offering to give us power and strength. He wants to turn our weaknesses into glorious triumph. All His unlimited resources of strength and power are at our disposal. We must draw from those resources.

Many times, we as His people fail to draw from His resources. Listen to the words of verse 29,

Isaiah 40:29 He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have no might* he increaseth strength.

Because He is the One giving, the response of us, as His children, should be to receive. The question is, how does God transfer His power to us? We find the answer in verse 31.

Isaiah 40:31 **But they that wait upon the LORD** shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

What must I do to renew my strength as a child of God?

Keep silent before Him.

Psalms 62:1 Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him *cometh* my salvation.

The word 'wait' means to be silent.

Proverbs 8:34 Blessed *is* the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

Waiting upon God means to totally depend on Him. Be ready to hear His voice, and to do His will. It is to put all your trust and confidence in the Lord.

When we wait **on** the Lord, what will be the results?

Point # I. We will have renewed strength.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD **shall renew *their* strength**; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

A. This strength will replace our weakness.

The word 'renew' could be translated as a 're-charge' or

exchange'. Our greatest weakness is to try to do things for the Lord in our own strength. We need to confess our weaknesses to the Lord. He will exchange it for His strength.

2 Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

His strength is all we need. It is sufficient!

B. Stop asking God to bless **your** strength.

Ask Him to renew or exchange your strength. It is not **more** strength we need. We need an exchange of strength. The Hebrew word means to swap. God does not empower the strong. God strengthens those who surrender themselves to Him. You give Him your exhausted strength and He will give you His everlasting strength.

C. What is the strength we need?

We need moral strength.

Programs may bring people but won't keep people.

When pressure hits, it will take moral strength to keep going.

Moral strength is the determination empowered by the Spirit to do what is right, regardless of the cost.

Doing that which is right may be unpopular.

Moral strength will not be swayed by culture or by the crowd.

Samson had physical strength but no moral strength.

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Moral strength comes from God; He does not change.

Moral compromise starts when we think God bends.

God does not bend His Holiness.

Today we need men and women to purpose in their hearts **not** to compromise.

The church will not be strengthened if the leader fails in having moral strength.

Daniel 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

D. Added to moral strength, we need spiritual strength.

The church does not need more activities; it needs spiritual strength. Spiritual strength will stand against compromising pressure, temptations and the wiles of the devil. Spiritual strength empowers us inwardly and causes us to stand, obey and not grow weary in the work. It is strength from the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

Spirit strength makes the inner man stronger while the body gets older and weaker.

Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.

We as God's children must admit our weaknesses.

Proverbs 24:16 For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

People are failing today because of small strength.

E. You don't work for Spiritual strength.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

To get spiritual strength you must wait on the Lord, it comes from Him alone.

Spiritual strength comes from His Word.

Psalms 119:28 My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.

Spiritual strength comes from prayer.

Luke 22:43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

Spiritual strength comes through fellowship.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Spiritual strength is needed to stand.

Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

To get that strength, we need to **wait** on the Lord.

There are added benefits to spiritual strength.

Point II. We will soar on wings like eagles.

To soar on wings like eagles takes you far above the earth, where things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

The wings of an eagle can span over six feet wide.

Eagles can fly for miles without flapping their wings. They glide on the currents in the air.

When storms come, most birds hide. Eagles fly into the storms and fly above them.

Eagles can see up to three miles away.

Eagles don't scratch or hop around on the ground; they soar in the skies.

The eagle is the only bird that flies so high that it is lost to human sight.

Today many Christians are hopping around on the ground like a bird with a broken wing or leg, instead of flying high like an eagle.

Eagle's wings are there to take them up and over obstacles, not under.

The believer who waits on the **Lord** and gets **His** spiritual strength, will mount up with wings like eagles.

When we wait on the Lord.....

Point # III. We will do supernatural things.

We will run and not be weary.

It is not natural to run and not get weary.

God promised supernatural power to accomplish supernatural tasks.

We are supernatural people because we are linked to a Supernatural God.

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

When God assigns a race for us to run, He will also give us the strength.

God does not give you all the strength before the race.

He provides the strength **as** you run the race.

Isaiah 40:29 He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength.

The race is run by faith!

Why do some run and get weary and others don't.

Those who get weary run in the flesh.

1. They are driven by the expectations of other people.
2. They need applause as they continue to run.
3. They try to compete and compare themselves with others.

Notice on the other hand those that run in the Spirit.

1. They run and do not get weary.
2. They run on the assignments from God.
3. They are fueled by obedience, not approval.
4. They keep their eyes on Jesus.
5. They run in their lane.
6. They wait on the Lord.

When you walk, you will not faint.

When you wait **on** the Lord, you become consistent. Walking means you keep doing the right thing, though no one sees. No-one sprints; it is a marathon. Walking covers long distances. When you walk you become and remain steady. When you run for the Lord, you advance. When you soar on

eagle's wings, it takes you above and over the situations and circumstances. Notice there are different instances, you will walk and not faint, you will run and not get weary, and you will mount up and soar like eagles. The grounding fact here is that you have to **wait on the Lord!** You need to live by the Spirit. Walk **with** God, not just **for** God.

Read God's Word consistently and intentionally to draw on **His** strength.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Psalms 119:28 My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.