

## Be Strong In The Lord

**Text: Philippians 4:13**

### Introduction:

1. New Testament speaks of strength in Christ - **Philippians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:13.**
2. Excuses for not doing what God has told us to do will not be accepted by Him! (cf. child-parent) - **Romans 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:10.**
  - "I don't have the ability, I can't do this or that."
  - "I don't have much education."
  - "What will people think about me if I do that."
  - "I don't have much money, I can't give."
  - "There are just so many things happening in my life I don't have time to worship,...."
  - "I'm too tired."
  - "Brother/sister so and so doesn't love me anymore....."
3. **Luke 14:18, 21, 24** - Excuses anger God and forfeit heaven!
4. Question: *Can you name one thing that God requires of us that we are unable to do? If so, what?*
5. Are you strong enough to examine, analyze, assess, critique and improve your spiritual strength?
6. *Some ways to be strong in Christ and overcome excuses for spiritual neglect (sin).* - **Ephesians 6:10**

### I. **BE INTERESTED IN GOD'S WILL!**

- A. The Ethiopian - **Acts 8:27-39.**
- B. Traveled great distance to worship (~1000 mi.) - v. **27.**
  1. -(worship services, gospel meetings, class to teach another)
  2. Used his time to read scripture - v. **28.**
  3. -(Use your time wisely: like reading God's word, etc. - **Ephesians 5:17**)
  4. Interested in learning - v. **31, 34.**
  5. -(Break out of the "boredom" mode! - **2 Timothy 2:15**)
  6. Responsive to truth (obeyed it) - v. **36-38 (James 4:17).**
  7. *Rejoiced in his salvation* - v. **39** (cf. **Psalms 51:12-13**).
- C. Cornelius - **Acts 10.**
  1. Excelled in character - **10:1-2 (10:22).**
  2. Anxious to hear God's word and share it - **10:24, 33.**
  3. Obeyed the commands of the gospel - **10:48.**

*-Without a primary interest in God's will, our spiritual life will flounder in confusion and distress. -- Such a one is lost in sin!*

### II. **HAVE CONVICTIONS BASED ON GOD'S WORD - **Romans 10:17.****

- A. Full Of Faith - **Acts 11:24.**
  1. When there is no faith there is no conviction!
  2. Conviction (synonyms: Confidence, certainty, intensity, fervor, persuasion.
  3. "*I am persuaded:* - **2 Timothy 1:12; 1:7; 1 Corinthians 16:13** - Conviction causes us to offer our best to God and suffer for His name! ("*Set for the defense of the gospel*" - **Philippians 1:17**)

**III. HAVE A DESIRE FOR TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS (1 Peter 2:2).**

- A. Seek and Apply God's Word and Will For Your Life - **Acts 13:6-7**.
  - 1. Sergius Paulus "*sought*" to hear the word of God.
  - 2. Otherwise, we offer excuses, grow spiritually weak and die.
  - 3. **Matthew 5:6** - Hunger and thirst (cf. **Psalms 119:131**).

**IV. DECIDE NOW TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT!**

- A. Have A Willing Mind - **2 Corinthians 8:12**.
- B. Determine To Deny Self and Sacrifice For Jesus - **Luke 9:23**.
  - 1. *Willingness to sacrifice* reveals the *value* we place on *Jesus*, truth and salvation!) - **Hebrews 3:7-8; 2 Corinthians 6:2**
  - 2. Don't procrastinate!!

**V. DO THE RIGHT THING NOW! - Joshua 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21**

- A. We Must Do The Things Which Produce Spiritual Strength - **Ephesians 6:10-11, 14-18**.
  - 1. Put on whole armor of God -- Rely on His power! (**2 Corinthians 10:3-4**)
- B. We Must Do More Than Talk A Good Game – We Must Live It! - **Matthew 7:23**

**Conclusion**

- 1. We are able to learn our duty to God and to do everything God requires of us - **Luke 6:46**.
- 2. Get busy learning and doing - Living by faith! - **2 Corinthians 5:7**
  - Be **interested** in God and spiritual things
  - Have **convictions** based on truth
  - **Desire** truth and righteousness
  - **Decide** now to obey God!
  - **Do** God's will now!