

## BE NOT MOVED

### Toughen Up: Hardened To Adversity

- I. **We can be hardened to difficulties**—*Is41:10*—*Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will **STRENGTHEN** thee; yea, I will help thee; yea I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness; **AC**—I will strengthen and **HARDEN YOU TO DIFFICULTIES***
- A. If God strengthened you, how strong would you be?—Strong enough—You wouldn't be weak
- B. Strengthen—Harden; Solid; Mentally strong; Firm; Toughness; The quality of sustaining the application of force without breaking or yielding
- C. To be hardened to difficulties means they slam against us, but don't change us—It is *toughness* (firm, strong, not easily broken, able to endure hardship)
- D. How strong/tough you are deals with how much you can take before you break—The harder/tougher/stronger a thing is the more force it takes to alter it
1. Tough doesn't mean you don't feel or that you pretend like you don't feel, but rather it means you don't change no matter how or what you feel
- II. **To not be moved and believe to the end you have to toughen up**
- A. You have to be able to absorb the blows of adversity, but not be broken by them—If you're weak/soft a little adversity will break you and move you out of faith
- B. God says be strong and courageous 6 times because they won't get to the end being soft and weak—*Dt31:6*—*Be **STRONG** and of **GOOD COURAGE** (same Is41:10 strengthen) fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with you; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.* *'And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be **STRONG** and of **GOOD COURAGE**: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.* *<sup>8</sup>And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee; fear not, neither be **DISMAYED**; **Js1:6**—**BE STRONG** and of a **GOOD COURAGE**: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.* *<sup>7</sup>Only **BE THOU STRONG** and **VERY COURAGEOUS**..<sup>9</sup>Have not I commanded thee? **BE STRONG** and of a **GOOD COURAGE**; be not afraid, neither be thou **DISMAYED**..<sup>18</sup>Only **BE STRONG** and of **GOOD COURAGE***
1. Strong—Hard, firm, resolute; Ability to bear/endure, not easily overthrown/altered; Good courage—To be hard or solid, obstinate (difficult to move), fixed firmly in resolution, determined, persist; Mental strength of determination; Dismayed—Break down, beat down, discourage; Deprive of strength or firmness of mind; Loss of firmness
2. If there was going to be no opposition, this is a meaningless thing to say
- C. In difficulties you have to harden up, set your jaw—I'm not letting the pressure change me—*Is50:6*—*I have my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help me; therefore I shall not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint (hardness, rock), and I know that I shall not be ashamed*
- D. If you quit before the end, it's not the pressure was too great, but that you were too weak—*Pr24:10*—*If thou **FAINT** (leave, let go) in the day of **ADVERSITY** (distress) thy **STRENGTH** (be firm) is small; **EX**—If you give up when trouble comes, it shows that you are weak; **TL**—You are a poor specimen if you can't stand the pressure of adversity; **MSG**—If you fall to pieces in a crisis, there wasn't much to you in the first place; **NOG**—If you faint in crisis, you are weak; **VO**—If you fall apart during a crisis, then you weren't very strong to begin with*
- E. Far too often, we are far too bothered, by far too many things and it's spiritual softness and weakness—*Hb10:32*—***MS**—Those were the hard times! Kicked around in public, targets of every kind of abuse..If some enemies broke in and seized your goods..**NOTHING THEY DID BOTHERED YOU***

- III. **There's supposed to be a supply of strength coming from God to the believer that makes the believer unbreakable and hardened to difficulties-Is41:10-I will strengthen thee**
- A. He's not bothered by his circumstances because of this supply of strength-Ph4:11-I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content (at peace, not disturbed; AM-Not disturbed or uneasy regardless of my circumstances).<sup>12</sup> I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.<sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me
- B. This strength enables to persevere in any situation joyfully-Col1:11-Stregngthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; CJB-We pray that you will be continually strengthened with all the power that comes from his glorious might; so that you will be able to persevere and be patient in any situation joyfully
- C. By this supply of strength you can be pressed outside but not stressed inside-The circumstances can't break him-2Cor4:8-We're troubled (pressed on) on every side, yet not distressed (miserable, anxiety, sorrow); we are perplexed (no way out), but not in despair (without hope); Persecuted (mistreated), but not forsaken (desert); cast down, but not destroyed
- IV. **The believer is not supposed to be some soft, weak being-Is7:4-Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted (soft, tender, weak); Pr28:1-The righteous are as bold as a lion; 2Tm2:3-Endure hardness (have to be harder than the hardness) as a good soldier of Jesus Christ**
- A. Be strong is charge to The Church-Hag2:4-Yet now **BE STRONG**, O Zerubbabel, saith the Lord; and **BE STRONG**, O Joshua..and **BE STRONG**, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts; Ep6:10-**BE STRONG** in the Lord and in the power of His might; 1Co16:13-Watch ye, **STAND FAST** (persevere) in the faith, **QUIT** you like men (act manly, brave), **BE STRONG**
- B. A "weakness/brokenness doctrine" has been shoved down the throat of the church by the devil in the guise of humility-2Cor12:9-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.<sup>10</sup> Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.
- C. You don't tap into the strength of God talking about how hard something is and how weak you are-2Co4:17-For our light affliction; Ph4:13-I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

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**Strengthen-H553-ST-Harden; BDB-Hard or solid; A-Heb-Mentally strong, firm; W1828-Strength-Firmness; solidity or toughness; the quality of bodies by which they sustain the application of force without breaking or yielding (Strength of a bone, rope) W1828-Strong-Having ability to bear or endure; firm; solid; Not easily overthrown or altered; H2388-Make hard, harden, obstinate; BDB-Harden, firm, resolute; W1828-Having the ability to bear or endure, not easily overthrown or altered; Good courage-H553-ST-Harden, make obstinate (stubborn-difficult to move, fixed firmly in resolution, not yielding or not easily removed); BDB-To be hard or solid, determined, persist; A-Heb-A mental strength of courage or determination; Dismayed-H2865-Break down; beat down, discourage; BDB-Be broken; W1828-Deprive of that strength or firmness of mind which constitutes courage; loss of firmness**

