

*They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.
Psalm 84:7 KJVS*

God is on a recovery mission with man. When we consider what the Church is meant to be, we will understand the agitation that the enemy has towards church. Zion speaks of both you as well as the church. What Christ did on the cross would not mean much if there is no church on ground. Going from strength to strength is an experience you will have as you are part of a body. Why? Jesus said He will build His church and the gate of hell will not prevail. Your protection and source of strength is in His church. There is a finished picture in what God has for you. There is a portion of growth into that picture.

What is the difference between physical and spiritual strength?

You can benefit physically from Spiritual strength, but physical strength cannot translate to spiritual strength. Peter was one of the individuals who always wanted to prove strength. He was the first to want to walk on water, the first to say that He would die for Jesus. Yet, a little girl caused him to swear and deny Jesus. While working with Jesus, we will understand that our physical strength will fail and can even be one of the biggest hinderance to you. When the bible says "Be strong in the Lord, what does that mean"? It means take on His strength. How do you get spiritual strength? By the time you spend with Him and behold Him in the Word. Whatever show of strength that you look to exhibit in the Kingdom of God, that is not sourced in light or from the Kingdom of God, will lead to catastrophe. Strength comes by light and exposure to the things of the Spirit.

How Do we Increase in Strength?

*A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.
Proverbs 24:5 KJVS*

Strength is progressive. What part of knowledge will cause you to increase in strength? The knowledge of His majesty and supremacy. There is also a personal revelation or experiential knowledge of God, like David in Psalm 23 who said "The Lord is MY shepherd." The revelation of God is also a knowledge that gives strength. The church is a place where the revelation of God is revealed both personally and corporately from one level to another. Besides the knowledge of God, the knowledge of yourself increases strength. This is a knowledge of who you are in Him. The knowledge of God is not just for your benefit. There is a light that has to do with your specific identity in prophecy.

Topic: Built to Last - A Church Going From Strength to Strength

Speaker: Bro Rukevwe Atebefia

But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.

Exodus 7:4 KJVS

Knowledge of God's Identity of Us

As at the time that God called them armies, these were slaves. We must know our identity in God. Knowledge of how God views us is strength. One of the beautiful things about the church is that you could see a man who is a none entity and over time, if they are subscribed to a spirit filled church, he could be a prophet or some entirely different individual. Imagine being able to see every individual from the prophetic lens. Stephen was waiting tables, but there was an evangelist in Him. It is important for you to see the importance of the body and your place in it. God will not do anything without the body.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [19] And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. [20] Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

Matthew 16:18-20 KJVS

Recall that when Jesus appeared to Paul. He said "why do you persecute me", not "why do you persecute my church". Acts 22:27. The health of his church is very important to God. Salvation is the emphasis for mankind and it is from strength to strength. Every child of God has a role to play towards mankind. When you were saved, you partook of the life of God and you were saved. Now, you may still be thinking like the old man, lying, etc. However, as you grow, a time comes where you begin to function in the place where you can save and disciple others. God is building His church. God is interested in you partnering with Him, not just you benefiting. He wants you to serve and in the place of service, you learn more about him. What is the church as it relates to mankind.

What is the Church?

1. The church is the earthly representative of Christ. She is the body, the bride of Christ. John 14:19. Jesus was speaking of a time where the world would not see him. However, because the church would be in him when He ascends, they would see the church only and see Him through the church. God's emphasis is towards mankind through His church and it is from strength to strength. The scripture tells us in the church is an ambassador of Christ (1 Corinthians 5:20)

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2. The church is God's investment against sin, death and hell. You put an investment in and you receive a return. God is looking to invade the earth through man. Satan is also looking to find expression to man. There is an onslaught of sin and death invested towards mankind, but God has made an investment in you to counter that. Matthew said He came that we may have life and have it in abundance. Note that It did not say "I give you life". If He were to give it to us, we can benefit from it. Because we have life, others can benefit from it. Have you thought about the value that God places on one who has His spirit? This is why God will labour and work until Salvation is worked out in His church, so that they can find full expression of the life that God has placed in them. Isaiah 25:2-8.

3. The church is the family of God on earth. Ephesians 3:14-16 shows that the concept of strength comes into view for the family. The church is a family. Once you see the church as a family, it will instruct the way you handle somethings. In a family you learn responsibility, discipline, compromise, patience. God is interested in the body. There are injuries that are external, e.g. a cut to your hand. However, the worst kind is the auto immune disease, where the body fights itself. The church is a physical community. While we are a spiritual body, it is important we must learn how to relate physically with others.

He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

Matthew 27:58 KJVS

God cannot do without His body. He is looking for people who will beg for the body, a people who will intercede for the body of Christ. God is looking for those who will work in real love with one another. Seeking the good always for His church. Let us arise, Zion and come into this mind of God. SELAH.