

BE STRONG

1 Corinthians 16:13

- Unwavering commitment even in difficulty to...

1. Be on the _____.

2. Stand firm in _____.

3. Act with _____.

- “Be Strong” is literally...

- This is ...

1. Acts _____

6. Philippians _____

2. Romans _____

7. Colossians _____

3. 1 Corinthians _____

8. 1 Thessalonians _____

4. Galatians _____

9. 2 Timothy _____

5. Ephesians _____

- What is my role in _____?

1. Admitting: I am...

2. Believing: I am...

3. Abiding: He will be...

Have questions from today's sermon?

Text them to **904.438.4435** then listen to our Q&A podcast, available Sunday afternoon.

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LOOK BACK

- **BLESS:** How has the Spirit of God prompted you to reach out to others in the last week or two? What actions or steps did you take?
- **Praise: Psalm 27 & 31:24:** Give praise to God for WHO He is and WHAT He has done and an affirmation of where our hope is. (How have you seen him work, answer a prayer, bless you or someone else?)
- The language of our faith is thanksgiving in all things. What difficult circumstance in your life will you, by faith, give thanks for?
- **Confession:** How has fear or weakness caused you to shrink back from full obedience to God?

LOOK IN

- As you read I Corinthians 16:13, what is the difference between “Be strong” and “Be strengthened”?
- As you read John 15:5 in context, what does “apart from me you can do nothing” specifically refer to?
- What is Jesus seeking to help us understand through the image of the branch and the vine?
- How does the illustration of the tandem bike help you better understand your Christian Life?
- In what way did you connect to the testimony of Hudson Taylor?
- What questions, concerns, or doubts do you have regarding what you have heard and read?
- How did the Holy Spirit speak through this passage to inform, remind, convict, or encourage you?
- For further study: Read these passages to deepen your understanding.
 - Acts 1:8
 - Romans 8:11
 - 1 Corinthians 2:3-4
 - Galatians 3:3
 - Ephesians 3:20
 - Philippians 4:13
 - Colossians 1:10-11
 - 1 Thes. 5:24
 - 2 Timothy 1:7

LOOK FORWARD

- Closing Prayer
 - Requests: What are you asking God to do in and through you in the coming week?
 - Relinquishment: Present your body to God as an instrument to work in and through for His glory.



THE FAITH: Our Salvation

“²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”

“^{5:8} But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 3:23, Romans 5:8

Scan or visit cfcjax.com/thefait to download this week's Scripture memory wallpaper

Hudson Taylor Testimony

(an excerpt from "Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret," by Howard Taylor)

"...my mind has been greatly exercised for six or eight months...feeling the need personally of more holiness, life, power ... I felt the ingratitude, the danger, the sin of not living nearer to God. I prayed, agonized, fasted, strove, made resolutions, read the Word more diligently, sought more time for meditation - but all without avail. Every day, almost every hour, the consciousness of sin oppressed me.

I knew that if only I could abide in Christ all would be well, but I could not. I would begin the day with prayer, determined not to take my eye off Him for a moment, but pressure of duties, sometimes very trying, and constant interruptions apt to be so wearing, caused me to forget Him.

Instead of growing stronger, I seemed to be getting weaker and to have less power against sin;...I hated myself, I hated my sin, yet gained no strength against it. I felt I was a child of God. His Spirit in my heart would cry, in spite of all, 'Abba, Father.'" But... I was utterly powerless.

All the time I felt assured that there was in Christ all I needed, but the practical question was - how to get it out.

I strove for faith, but it would not come; I tried to exercise it, but in vain. Seeing more and more the wondrous supply of grace laid up in Jesus, the fullness of our precious Saviour, my guilt and helplessness seemed to increase.

When my agony of soul was at its height, a sentence in a letter was used to remove the scales from my eyes, and the Spirit of God revealed to me the truth of our oneness with Jesus as I had never known it before... how to get faith strengthened? Not by striving after faith, but by resting on the Faithful One!

As I read, "If we believe not, he abideth faithful." I looked to Jesus and saw that He had said, 'I will never leave thee.'

"Ah, there is rest!" I thought. 'I have striven in vain to rest in Him. I'll strive no more. For has not He promised to abide with me- never to leave me, never to fail me?'

Oh, my dear Sister, it is a wonderful thing to be really one with a risen and exalted Saviour, to be a member of Christ! Can Christ be rich and I poor? Can your right hand be rich and your left poor? Or your head be well fed while your body starves?

The sweetest part, if one may speak of one part being sweeter than another, is the rest which full identification with Christ brings. I am no longer anxious about anything, as I realize this; for He, I know, is able to carry out His will, and His will is mine. It makes no matter where He places me, or how... for in the easiest position He must give me His grace, and in the most difficult His grace is sufficient.

It little matters to my servant whether I send him to buy a few cash worth of things, or the most expensive articles. In either case he looks to me for the money and brings me his purchases. So, if God should place me in serious perplexity, must He not give me much guidance; in positions of great difficulty, much grace; in circumstances of great pressure and trial, much strength?

No fear that His resources will prove unequal to the emergency! And His resources are mine, for He is mine, and is with me and dwells in me.