



BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES FOR GOD

Strengthening Your Faith

Joshua 24:15

Just like in bodybuilding, building strong faith requires dedication, perseverance, and daily spiritual exercises.

Key verse: Joshua 24:15 – "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living.

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

WELCOME!

December 29, 2024

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10AM
WORSHIP 11AM
CHILDREN'S CHURCH AGES 3-7
NURSERY 2 & YOUNGER

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

PRIMARY CLASS 3-6
JUNIOR CLASS 7-12
TEEN CLASS 13-17
7 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS



FROM WEAK TO STRONG
JANUARY 5
SUNDAY, 11AM

Strengthening Your Faith

From Weak to Strong Series

Notes

Why does Joshua ask the Israelites to serve God?

How long did Israel stay faithful to God?

1. Why is it important for Christians to walk in truth?

Why does John commend Gaius for walking in truth?

Why did John condemn Diotrephes (dye-OT-ruh-fee-z)?

Connect with your kids

Just like how you need to practice and work hard to get stronger muscles, you also need to practice and work on your faith to make it strong. This means praying, reading the Bible, and doing good things every day.

Verse: Joshua 24:15

- This verse is about making a choice. It tells us that we can choose who we want to follow and serve.
- The people in the Bible had different choices, like the gods their ancestors followed or the gods of the Amorites.
- Joshua is saying that he and his family have chosen to serve the Lord.

Questions to Engage

- Why do we need dedication and perseverance to build strong faith?
- Just like you can't build muscles without regular exercise, you can't build strong faith without practicing it regularly.
- What are some "spiritual exercises" we can do every day?

Philippians 4:13: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

1. Growth Matters

Leaders lose influence if they do not continue to grow. But growth doesn't just happen. It requires intentionality and investment. Paul was passionate about his spiritual potential. In Philippians 3:12 – 15 Paul declared important truths about how to keep growing to the end:

- Communicate honestly where you are: "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal . . . I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it."
- Concentrate totally on your goal: "I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. . . . I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."
- Consecrate everything you have to get there: "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. . . . All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you."

2. People Matter

Paul valued relationships and expressed appreciation for others. He expressed that value and appreciation all throughout his letters.

- "I always thank my God for you" (1 Corinthians 1:4).
- "Ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you" (Ephesians 1:15 – 16).
- "I thank my God every time I remember you" (Philippians 1:3).

Paul put a "10" on every person's head — meaning he expected the best of them and helped them think more highly of themselves. He gave people hope, and he shared himself with others.

3. Obedience Matters

Paul was faithful to God's call. As the apostle bade a tearful, final farewell to the elders in the church at Ephesus, he reminded them he had faithfully served the Lord despite hardships. He told them he felt compelled to go to Jerusalem although he knew chains and tribulations awaited him there. But, Paul assured them, none of that mattered to him. What did matter was that he finish the ministry he had received from the Lord (Acts 20:17 – 25).

Those who wanted him to quit preaching could throw rocks at him, but that didn't stop Paul. He counted it a privilege to suffer for Christ.

What could be done with the apostle Paul? Absolutely nothing, because nothing mattered more to him than faithful obedience to God.

The true nature of leadership isn't self-centered exaltation like Nero demonstrated — it's an ongoing process of sacrifice that faithfully serves others and obeys God no matter the cost.

Growth matters. People matter. Obedience matters.

When we embrace and embody those principles we can, like Paul, lead well and finish well.

(Excerpted from an article by John Maxwell from the NIV Maxwell Leadership Bible)



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