

Renewing our Strength through Worship

TEXT: Isa. 40:28-31, “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

THESIS: Come to God and He will renew you.

INTRODUCTION:

1. The statement from the ancient prophet, Isaiah, is some of the most beautiful wording in the English language.
2. It is a statement, written by a man, who received one of the highest challenges a man could ever receive who had an interest in communicating the will of God to man.
 - a. Back in Isaiah 6, Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord say to him, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” (Isa. 6:8).
 - b. Isaiah was receiving a commission from God to go and prophesy to the people of God, who, at that time, were in constant defiance to Deity.
 - i. Isaiah responded to Heaven’s call by saying, “Here am I; send me.”
 - ii. Isaiah displayed an unbiased attitude to declare whatever message God wanted His people to hear.
 - c. But, the message was not delightful; it would be hard to see how Isaiah could remain motivated to put everything he had into proclaiming it.
 - i. The message was: “Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed” (vs. 9-10).
3. Those to whom he was to speak to, would not listen, they would not heed his words!
 - a. He was to tell them exactly what they needed to hear in order to be converted, he would tell them what they needed to know to be saved, but they would not understand him, they would not perceive his message.
 - b. Their heart would be fat or self-satisfied; heavy ears indicates boredom on their part with Isaiah’s message.
 - i. Now, have you ever been talking to someone about something you were convinced is really important to both of you and to the most high God only to have them not listen or fall asleep on you?
 - ii. The Lord told Isaiah that this is what they would do with his proclamation—they would “shut their eyes.”
4. And so, Isaiah, realizing the difficult task set before him, he asked an obvious question, “Then said I, Lord, how long?” (v. 11).

- a. Basically, Isaiah was asking, “Lord, how long must I preach and teach to these people who will not listen to me and be such a challenging audience for me to try to reach?”
 - b. Now, the Lord did not reprimand Isaiah for asking such a question.
 - i. Instead, God said, that you keep preaching, “Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, And the Lord have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land” (vs. 11b-12).
 - ii. God was telling Isaiah that the enemies of Israel and Judah are going to overtake them, they are going to pillage and plunder them, they are going to destroy them from off their homeland, and you are not going to be able to convince them to turn to God and to turn away from their own destruction.
 - iii. God was telling Isaiah that you will see the land desolate before you see these people repent of their sins.
 - c. Now, the first part of the answer would be true of ninety percent of the population, but, there was a ray of hope in the latter part of the answer to Isaiah’s question.
 - i. God said, “But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof” (v. 13).
 - ii. Or, as he had already been told, “Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah” (Isa. 1:9).
5. Now, thirteen times Isaiah referred to this righteous “remnant” who would be spared, who would heed his warnings.
- a. Those who would listen to Isaiah would be “a very small remnant.”
 - i. But, the question is, “how did Isaiah, in the midst of such a discouraging response for such a long time, come to realize and believe what he wrote in Isaiah 40 which states, ‘they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint’?”
 - ii. Would knowledge of that be of help to us today when we face certain discouragement?
 - (1) And, if so, how much more would knowing what Isaiah knew that kept him motivated, even zealous, help us when things seem to be going our way?
 - b. I want to speak about worshipping God for a moment today by asking:

DISCUSSION:

I. WHAT MOTIVATES US TO WORSHIP GOD?

- A. What really motivates you to come and to sit down and worship God?
- B. Might I suggest to you that we look at Isa. 6:1-7, “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train

filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged” (Isa. 6:1-7).

- C. Is this the reason why you came today to worship God?
- D. The unseen veil was divinely drawn back, and Isaiah was privileged to see into heaven.
 - 1. His attention was directed to the throne of the universe with God Himself upon it “high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.”
 - a. The New King James Version says, “The train of His robe filled the temple.”
 - 2. Angels of highest rank, seraphim (mentioned by name only here in the Scriptures), gloriously described, cried out to one another saying, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts.”
 - a. The word “holy” is from the Hebrew word qadosh meaning “pure” and “devoted.”
 - b. And, by the repetition of this word, it emphasizes the completeness of this quality in the One upon whom Isaiah was looking.
 - 3. Oh, the matchless beauty of the footstool of earth God had created and by Whose power it is being sustained (Heb. 1:3) evoked the words from the angels, “The whole earth is full of His glory!”
 - a. At the echos of his voice “the posts of the door moved” and the house or temple was filled with smoke (Psa. 11:4; 18:7; 29:9).
- E. And, this look upon the throne room of God with all the attendant activities continually conducted there would sustain Isaiah through one of the more lengthy tenures among the prophets of approximately 40 years (740-701 B.C.).

II. WHAT BENEFITS ARE THERE IN WORSHIP?

- A. As Christians today, real benefits exist in viewing our worship to God as a “vital time to renew our strength.”
- B. Our prayers take us directly into the throne room of God ascending like “golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints” (Rev. 5:8).
 - 1. In fact, each authorized activity of adoration brings us before the throne.
 - 2. Think of the song which says, “Lord we come before Thee now, at Thy feet we humbly bow.”
- C. Christians are taught not only to pray (1 Thess. 5:17) but also to sing (Col. 3:16).

1. Our worship is spiritual which is why a mechanical instrument is not needed or to accompany our singing.
 2. The Bible says such instruments are “without life giving sound” (1 Cor. 14:7), so their use would be carnal, it is fleshly minded to appeal to human senses without regard for the Divine.
 - a. In Eccl. 5:1-2, it says, “Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.”
- D. In the observance of the Lord’s supper, our reflection back to His death on the cross is designed to strengthen our love for Him and our appreciation for His sacrifice on our behalf as we “show the Lord’s death until He comes” (1 Cor. 11:26).
1. This is a memorial declaration every Christian makes “upon the first day of the week” (Acts 20:7) as we are assembled together in worship (1 Cor. 11:20; Heb. 10:25).
- E. The weekly contribution (1 Cor. 16:1-2) consists of our returning a portion of our material blessings to God (2 Cor. 9:6-7) and reminds us of our Lord’s teaching to, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth . . . But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6:19-21).
1. In making such weekly contributions we also affirm our total dependence upon God to sustain our lives here (Matt. 6:22-34).
 2. This is why we give not grudgingly, but give so much that we have no choice but to continually rely upon God for our daily needs
 3. We are giving to the Lord, and that brings us before His throne in worship or adoration.
- F. Then the preaching of the Word of God is intended to communicate the “whole counsel of God” to the congregation (Acts 20:27, ASV).
1. Whereas in prayer we talk to God through His Son, Jesus Christ (John 16:23; 1 Tim. 2:5), in the preaching we allow God to talk to us through His revealed Word, the Bible.
 2. The preacher is to “preach the Word” (2 Tim. 4:2).
- III. HOW DO THESE THINGS STRENGTHEN US?
- A. How do these five authorized actions of adoration—praying, singing, observance of the Lord’s supper, giving, and preaching—“renew our strength”?
1. By allowing us, at least for a few precious moments, to go past the world’s anxieties and cares and what seems as impossible challenges to overcome, and to appear before the throne of God where Jesus Christ is seated at His right hand and before whom is the Spirit of God (Rev. 4:5).

2. You see, time spent in worshipping God “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24) is vital to renew our strength.
- B. But, we also need to look in a negative way about renewing our strength in worship.
1. The Bible is clear to say that forsaking the assembly is sinful (Heb. 10:25-26).
 2. As Christians, our hearts should be broken because we have been closely associated with brethren whose presence in worship has been of great value to us, bringing us edification from spiritual fellowship, but such fellowship is missing because many have fallen away.
 - a. No more do these erring brethren sing the “great songs of the church.”
 - b. No longer do their contributions aid in the advancement of the cause of Christ in this world because some have ceased to “show the Lord’s death till he come.”
 - c. No longer do some fellowship together and share plans and dreams for the church and for our prayers of mercy to God.
 - d. When the precious Word of God is read and studied here, some seats are empty and those wayward Christians are missed by the church (1 Sam. 20:18).
 3. It saddens me to know that some of the “heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ” are not showing up for the reading of God’s Will! (Rom. 8:17; Heb. 9:15-17).
- C. It is past time that the wayward come home, come back to the work and worship of God, while time and opportunity is given in our lives of vapors (2 Cor. 6:2; Jas. 4:14).
1. You know, the Bible closes with the realization that some who were once faithful will not repent and ultimately will be lost.
 2. John penned in Rev. 22:11-12, “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”
- D. A real test for us is to “renew our strength” in worship.
1. In the days of Isaiah, he saw the throne room of God.
 - a. In the book of Revelation, it is recorded for us that the apostle John was exiled to Patmos, “for the Word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 1:9).
 - b. While many Christians were dying for their faith (Rev. 6:9-10) and while John was in exile, once again the unseen veil divinely was drawn back, and this time the apostle John was allowed to see into heaven itself.
 2. As you listen to Rev. 4:1-11, see what John saw and then think of how

worship is a “vital time to renew our strength.”

- E. Those Christians of the first century, who saw their loved ones dying for their faith vitally needed their strength renewed.

CONCLUSION:

1. The time between Isaiah’s vision and John’s was about three quarters of a millennium, yet the same angels are still singing, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come”!
2. We can rest assured, “that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” (Isa. 40:28-31)
 - a. Even the strongest, youngest people will grow weak, but those who patiently trust in the Lord will be renewed in strength
 - b. Trust in God, lean upon Him in prayer (Lk. 18:1) because He gives power to the weak.
3. Remember the joyous enthusiasm we experienced with our conversion, we now are to soar high as with wings of an eagle, learning and building a foundation of faith.
 - a. And, while being on our long journey of trials and testings, when we become dull and our hope dims, look up, and grasp anew vision of God and heaven.
 - b. Renew your strength in God.
 - c. Let us as brethren, renew the strength in each other.
 - d. each time you come together with the saints and look to Him in your worship.
 - i. And, come to Him, if need be, while we stand and sing.