

## UNDERSTANDING How To be Strong in The Lord handout2

**We will learn, exactly, how to gain spiritual strength and tap into God's power. Then, when the enemy attacks, we can use God's armor and watch the Holy Spirit bring peace into our lives.**

### **A. By standing firm in the Word of God, we can defeat the attacks of the enemy.**

1. We must be strong in God. We do this by putting on His armor to fight off the devil. In this spiritual warfare, we should put on truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Spirit (Ephesians 6:10-19).
  - a. The devil's plan for our life opposes God's plan.
2. When Jesus was telling the disciples, what was to happen to Him, He was revealing the Father's will, but Peter responded under the influence of the devil. He rebuked Jesus, and Jesus had to speak directly to the devil operating through Peter (Matthew 16:21-23).
  - a. Any time anyone tries to counteract or contradict the Word of God, that person is demonically influenced.
  - b. Jesus and the devil are fighting a spiritual battle over us.
3. Anyone living a godly life will suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12).
4. The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus came to bring us abundant life (John 10:10).
  - a. God does not judge us by our actions, but the devil does.
  - b. Every action has a spiritual consequence, whether for good or evil. What we do can either empower Jesus to give us life or empower the enemy to destroy us.
5. Whoever we yield ourselves to and obey becomes our master, and we become their servant. This is true whether it is to sin unto death, or to obedience unto righteousness. (Romans 6:16).
  - a. The devil is the father of sin. God is the Father of righteousness.
6. God's thoughts and plans for us are for happiness, goodness, and peace, not evil (Jeremiah 29:11, *AMPC*).
  - a. His intentions for us are good, but He has given us the power and authority to control our own life. We are free moral agents.

### **B. God's plans are positive and life-affirming. We have everything we need to claim the life He wants us to have.**

1. His will is that none should perish, and all should be saved (2 Peter 3:9).
2. God gives us a choice between life and death, between blessings or curses. He wants us to choose life (Deuteronomy 30:19).
  1. He advises us, but the final decision is ours.

3. God's calling and His gifts to us are permanent and irrevocable (Romans 11:29).
4. Whenever envy and strife show up, they are accompanied by confusion and evil (James 3:16).
5. We must be vigilant and watchful. Our enemy is prowling, waiting to pounce and devour us (1 Peter 5:8).
6. We have the authority to command. This authority is directly from God (Isaiah 45:11).
7. Jesus became poor so that we could become rich through Him (2 Corinthians 8:9).
  1. It is God's intent for us to prosper.
8. The devil has been cut down, and he has no authority of his own. When we finally see him for who he is, we will be amazed that we feared him at all (Isaiah 14:12-17).

### **C. Tapping into God's strength and peace gives us access to His power.**

We must be strong in God and in the power of His might. We do that by putting on all of His armor (Ephesians 6:10-12).

1. We cannot trust in our own strength. The power belongs to God, and we make use of it.
2. God has supplied us with all the power we need, but we must flip the switch ourselves. This is called using our spiritual authority.
3. Spending time in the Word is the act of donning our spiritual armor.
4. Everything bad that happens to us is a result of a spiritual influence.
5. . Strong (Gk. endunamoo) means empower, enable and increase.
  1. Strength comes through the knowledge of God.
  2. Knowledge causes your strength to increase (Prov. 24:5; Eph. 1:16).
  3. Knowledge comes by meditating the Word and Bible teaching (Psa. 1:2).
  4. Power (Gg. kratos) means vigor, dominion and strength (The Holy Spirit).
  5. Might means (Gk. ischus) forcefulness and ability (Eph. 1:19-21).
2. God's thoughts and plans for us are of peace and not evil, to give us a bright future (Jeremiah 29:11, *AMPC*).
  1. He has plans for good, to give us hope in our final outcome.
3. God wants to give us peace (Romans 15:33).

4. The God of peace will bruise the devil under our feet, and Jesus will bring us grace (Romans 16:20).

**D Here are some other ways to tap into God's power (1 Cor. 14:4).**

1. Act on what you hear (James 1:22).
- 2.. Pray in other tongues (1 Cor. 14:4).
3. The Holy Spirit helps us and intercedes for us (Rom. 8:26-28).
4. This benefit is for specific people (Rom. 8:37).
5. Hold yourself up and keep yourself in God's love (Jude 1:20-21).
6. Say what God says. He says what He wants to happen (Rom. 4:17). D. Do the greatest of the three, which is love (1 Cor. 13:13).

**E. Here are some points regarding the armor of God (Eph. 6:14-18).**

- 1.. Put on the belt of truth. Truth is the Word of God (John 17:17).
- 2.. Put on the breastplate (your identity) of righteousness.
3. It is your reminder that you don't have a past. 2. You are in right-standing with God Almighty (1 John 1:9).
4. When reminded of your past, say with confidence: I am forgiven. I am born again; and I am the righteousness of God, in Christ Jesus.
- 5.. We are commanded to cover our feet with the gospel of peace (Gk. eirene) which is prosperity, quietness and rest. It is a life with no worries.
6. Cast all your care on God (1 Pet. 5:5-7; Mat. 6:25-34).
7. The devil is not a lion. Jesus gave you victory over him (1 Pet. 5:8).