

Strengthening Weak Faith

Genesis 32:1-32

February 19, 2023 | Jason Finley, Lead Pastor for Equipping

Big Idea: God's persevering pursuit strengthens the weak in faith.

I. Remember God's unseen presence amidst distress (1-8)

Hebrews 1:14 | Are [angels] not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Hebrews 13:5b-6 | For he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Psalms 34:7 | The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Hebrews 11:1 | Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

II. Rely on God according to His Word (9-12)

A.C.T.S. Model of Prayer

Adoration

Praise God for His character and attributes.

Confession

Confess how you have fallen short of God's character and commands.

Thanksgiving

Offer thanks to God for His mercy and forgiveness through Christ.

Supplication

Express dependence on God as you bring requests to Him.

"If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me."

— Robert Murray M'Cheyne

III. Receive God's strength through the weakness of submission (13-32)

Hosea 12:2-6 | 2 The Lord has an indictment against Judah and will punish Jacob according to his ways; he will repay him according to his deeds. 3 In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood he strove with God. 4 He strove with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his favor. He met God at Bethel, and there God spoke with us— 5 the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord is his memorial name: 6 “So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God.”

Matthew 19:23-26 | 23 And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” 26 But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 | 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

James 4:6-8 | 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Galatians 3:14 | So that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

1 Corinthians 9:23 | I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Ephesians 1:3 | Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

Benediction

Hebrews 13:5b-6 | For he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6 So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”