



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Reply All – Part 4 (The Strength)

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Main Idea – Loving God with all of your strength is the sum total of the vibrancy of the health of your heart, soul, and mind. The health of your heart, soul, and mind contribute to your strength.

Key Verse: Luke 10: 25-28 – And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?” So he answered and said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’” And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”

Loving God with all your strength:

- God desires that we love Him with all our strength.
- Loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind contributes to your strength.
- Strength is like a capacitor. When you require of it, it can only put out what you have put in.
- You are responsible for what you take in; this has a direct impact on your strength. What you listen to, watch, and visualize affects your strength.
- Will what you are taking in meet the demands for what you are trying to put out? Our input equals our output.
- We should not defer responsibility for our actions to others. We are responsible for our own actions.
- We must - with intentionality and purpose - take time to deposit things in our lives that we will need for tomorrow.

Sources of building strength:

1. Experiences

- We learn things about ourselves through experiences; who we really are.
- Experiences introduce you to you.
- Through our experiences we discover our strengths and weaknesses.
- Worship as part of our experience helps us realize God is with us. Through worship, the Holy Spirit inspires us and introduces us to the aspects and characteristics of who God says we are.
- **Psalm 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! (NKJV)**

2. Relationships

- God designed the culture of the church to strengthen and to hold up each other.
- Together we are stronger than alone. Solitude is not God's plan for any of us.
- Jesus added this context when speaking to the lawyer. Loving with all your heart, soul, mind and strength should also include loving your neighbor. It is important to do both. **Ecclesiastes 4:12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (NKJV)**

3. God - the greatest source of strength

- God strengthens us through the Holy Spirit. His strength is considerate and compassionate.
- He does not give us strength just to make us strong, but for us to show compassion.
- **Luke 9: 54-56; (v56) "For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save *them*." And they went to another village. (NKJV)**
- Godly strength is meek, not weak. We are strong when we are weak.
- **Ephesians 3:16 – that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, (NKJV)**
- Jesus was not ruled by His strength. Jesus ruled His strength.
- Experiences and relationships will fail. But, God is asking you to yield to Him, not to your own strength.

What it means to live with all your strength

- God will be with you to encourage you.
- You will find opportunities to build strength; they are everywhere.
- We exhibit our weakest moments when we try to live life on our own, apart from God.
- **2 Corinthians 12:9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."**

Reflective Questions for Reply All – Part 4

1. Reflecting on today's message, are you allowing God to be the source of your strength in all situations? If not, what steps will you take to yield to Him as the source of your strength?
2. Name some of the ways you are demonstrating God's strength in your life? How does this show consideration and compassion?
3. We learned that opportunities exist all around us to show, and to build, our strength. How will you act on the opportunities to develop the character and strength you will need in the future?
4. Thinking about the experiences and relationships you have trusted in the past, do you see how trusting God as the greatest source is best? Can you identify current areas where you have trusted yourself, or other humans, but where you will now trust God?