

## Let God Use Your Strength

I've shared this many, many times in the last 25 years! The greatest battle we face, the greatest battles we wage are against self, against our own flesh. Our own flaws and failures are what plaque us, oppress us, and hinder our growth in the Kingdom of God. In order to have the opportunity reach your full potential you must know who you are, your strengths and your flaws so that God may use your strengths to their fullest potential for His Kingdom and correct ones flaws. Strength in this context first appears in Torah when Ya'akov was speaking to both Leah and Racheal as he was preparing to depart from Laban:

**Genesis 31:6.** You know that I have served your father with all my strength (**koach {ko'-akh}: vigor, force, strength, power, might, human strength, strength of angels, the strength and power of God**).

This scripture gives us three specific areas of strength: 1. Our physical strength, 2. The strength of Angels. 3. Gods strength and power. Exodus 15:2 says Yah is my strength while Leviticus 26:20 states that if we don't serve God, if we are not obedient and obey Him we will spend our strength in vain! We can have supernatural strength like Sampson. Deuteronomy 8:17 warns us that when we become blessed and prosperous in the land we will think to ourselves the "My own power and strength of my own hand have gotten me this wealth". I could give dozens more examples but I believe you get the point. We are commanded to Love God with all of our strength, to love Him with all that we have in the vehavta:

**Deuteronomy 6:5 (TLV).** Love Adonai your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength (**m'odekha: exceedingly, much, to a great degree, might, force, abundance**).

The first scriptural example of letting God use your strength is Gideon. In Judges chapter 6 Israel is being severely oppressed by the Midianites. The Midianites were the descendants of Midian, a son of Abraham and his second wife Keturah:

**Genesis 25:1-2.** Avraham took another wife, whose name was K'turah. <sup>2</sup> She bore him Zimran, Yokshan, Medan, Midyan, Yishbak; and Shuach.

Midian had exercised its power so harshly that most of Israel's citizens are in the mountains hiding in caves. Israel eventually became so discouraged that they cried out to Adonai for deliverance. An Angel was sent and sits under a pistachio tree in Ofrah right by Gideon who was hiding down in a wine press threshing grain in order to hide from the Midianites. The angel made himself visible then spoke of Gideon:

**Judges 6:12.** The angel of ADONAI appeared to him and said to him: "You valiant (**chayil {khah'-yil: force, virtue, valor, worthy}**) hero (**gibbowr {ghib-bore'}: Powerful, warrior, strong man, brave man, mighty man - El Gibbor; Mighty God, God the mighty warrior**) (**both combined together valiant warrior**)! ADONAI is with you!"

The angel appears to Gideon whom one could say is cowardly threshing grain down in wine press to hide from the enemy. Gideon would go from this place of hiding, refugee, and evasion to become one of Israel's most charismatic, valiant, Godly, leaders. God gave Gideon a supernatural victory with lanterns and shofars held by just 300 men paired down from some 22,000 Israeli warriors. This groups obedience resulted in 120,000 enemy slain! Later Israel would plead with Gideon to become their King but he refused.

**Why Gideon? What did God see in Gideon? There was an attribute, a strength, character within him that God used to deliver ALL Israel. There is a clue in**

**Judges 6:13-14.** "Excuse me, sir," answered Gid'on, "but if ADONAI is with us, then why is all this happening to us? And where are all his miracles our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Didn't ADONAI bring us up from Egypt?' For now ADONAI has abandoned us and handed us over to Midyan." <sup>14</sup> ADONAI turned to him and said, "Go in this strength (**koach {ko'-akh}: vigor, force, strength, power, might, human strength, strength of angels, the strength and power of God**) of yours and save Isra'el from the hands of Midyan. Haven't I sent you?"

**Ahhhh this Koach, this strength of yours the angel says!! Gideon's question to the Angel reveals some chutzpa, there's a boldness within him! He's not kowtowing to the angel! He's not frightened by the messenger of God! In fact, he's challenging the angel! If Adonai is with us as you say, where's the miracles? Gideon knows the biblical narrative, knows the miracle working power of God and questions where it is? God's has someone in Gideon He can work with! God will use this strength, Gideon's strength, his integrity, honesty, charisma, and power to deliver all Israel! It's hard to explain just how difficult it is to winnow grain inside a wine press below ground level; yet Gideon had the strength and stamina to do it, and God saw it!**

**Another man of strength is King David, the smallest, youngest of his family and the least likely to become king of Israel but God doesn't look at the outside:**

**I Samuel 16:7, 13.** But ADONAI said to Sh'mu'el, "Don't pay attention to how he looks or how tall he is, because I have rejected him. ADONAI doesn't see the way humans see - humans look at the outward appearance, but ADONAI looks at the heart.

<sup>13</sup> Sh'mu'el took the horn of oil and anointed him there in his brothers' presence. From that day on, the Spirit of ADONAI would fall upon David with power. So Sh'mu'el set out and went to Ramah.

**God saw the courage and integrity of this young shepherd boy that slayed a lion and a bear. This young shepherd boy who would pick up a river stone, put it in his sling, and slay the giant Goliath who challenged the army of the God of Israel. David had great sling skills. Both Gideon and David's thought process were different. They weren't defeatists. They didn't walk around rejected, dejected, always complaining. In their hearts they trusted Adonai with great strength, courage. They are strong, valiant warriors who rose to the challenges and trials God placed before them. Their situations were different but God saw the strength within them for the challenges they both faced and added unto their strength and power with His own! He joined with them, He added to their strengths!!!!!!!!!!**

**David composed a victory song that he sang back unto God when he was delivered from all of his enemies! Hear David's heart:**

**Psalms 18:30-36.** "As for God, his way is perfect, the word of ADONAI has been tested by fire; he shields all who take refuge in him. <sup>31</sup> "For who is God but ADONAI? Who is a Rock but our God? <sup>32</sup> "It is God who girds me with strength; he makes my way go straight. <sup>33</sup> He makes me swift, sure-footed as a deer, and enables me to stand on my high places. <sup>34</sup> He trains my hands for war until my arms can bend a bow of bronze; <sup>35</sup> "You give me your shield, which is salvation, your right hand holds me up, your humility makes me great. <sup>36</sup> You lengthen the steps I can take, yet my ankles do not turn.

**This holds true as well in the Brit Chadesha! God used Sha'ul's strength, tenacity, and steadfastness to build community and share the good news globally:**

**Acts 9:22.** But Sha'ul was being filled with more and more power **(endunamoo {en-doo-nam-o'-o}: to make strong, to empower, endue with strength, strengthen, to receive strength, be strengthened, increase in strength)** and was creating an uproar among the Jews living in Dammesek with his proofs that Yeshua is the Messiah.

**Both Sha'ul and David understood the source of their strength, power, and success! For God to be able to use your strength you must know who you are! David knew:**

**Psalms 51:5-11.** For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me. <sup>6</sup> Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. <sup>7</sup> Behold, I was born in iniquity and in sin when my mother conceived me. <sup>8</sup> Surely You desire truth in the inner being. Make me know wisdom inwardly. <sup>9</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be clean. Wash me, and I will

be whiter than snow. <sup>10</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness, so the bones You crushed may rejoice. <sup>11</sup> Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

### **So did Sha'ul:**

**Ephesians 3:7-8.** I became a servant of this Good News by God's gracious gift, which he gave me through the operation of his power **(dunamis: strength power, ability, power for performing miracles)**. <sup>8</sup> To me, the least important of all God's holy people, was given this privilege of announcing to the Gentiles the Good News of the Messiah's unfathomable riches.

**Both of these men of God have a stark reality of who they are. Born sinners, guilty, least important of God's holy people, the necessity for a clean, broken, contrite, pure heart obtained through refining and pruning. They saw themselves clearly and so must we so that God may use you! There cannot be any false sense of importance in you. If you won't change God will move on to the next person, He'll find someone who will. God wants to use you to give you value, worth, to teach you about His glory and His Kingdom. The hard, cold truth is that He doesn't need us to complete His will! He can do it without us, yet He chooses us, allows us to participate to give us purpose and value so don't regard yourself too high, it's not about you!**

**The second key with these too is that they admitted their flaws honestly! They brought them before the lord.**

**II Corinthians 12:7-9.** Therefore, to keep me from becoming overly proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from the Adversary to pound away at me, so that I wouldn't grow conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I begged the Lord to take this thing away from me; <sup>9</sup> but he told me, "My grace is enough for you, for my power **(Dunamis)** is brought to perfection in weakness **(astheneia {as-then'-i-ah}: want of strength, weakness, infirmity)**." Therefore, I am very happy to boast about my weaknesses, in order that the Messiah's power will rest upon me.

**This is the antithesis of a majority of believers and leaders in the movement today. How do I know? I go to events! Almost every joint prayer meeting I've been invited to each Pastor are given 1-2 minutes to pray! Almost none follow the time limit! Where or not they would admit it they believe what they have to say is more important than the others so they talk as long as they want. There is no brokenness, humbleness, or weakness! Invariably these events are usually dry and powerless.**

**He won't fill you with His strength until your self-importance, your ego is broken and crushed. Sha'ul's self in his service to God is amazing to read. He begins in**

the early stages with terminology such as "so called super emissaries", "I'm no different".

After years of trials and refining we read later in his life where he defines himself as we just read in Ephesians that he is the least important of God's Holy people. In reality He is getting stronger and more successful in sharing the good news while his brokenness and humility are increasing. David didn't write Psalm 51 as a young shepherd boy, he wrote Psalms 51 after decades of persecution and oppression.

For God to use your strength you have to know what your strength is. You must be self-aware of what your gifting is, remove yourself out of the picture so that God can use it. A younger David I believe became aware himself of his strength in I Samuel 17 against Goliath. He wasn't even old enough to be in the Army. His father sent him to check on his brothers in battle when David witnessed the giant for the first time. Innocently he makes one of my most favorite biblical statements:

**I Samuel 17:26.** David said to the men standing with him, "What reward will be given to the man who kills this P'lishti and removes this disgrace from Isra'el? Who is this uncircumcised P'lishti anyway, that he challenges the armies of the living God?"

**King Saul heard David's questions and prophetically released him to stand against Goliath. King Saul though was looking at this situation in the flesh s he did this:**

**I Samuel 17:38-39.** Sha'ul dressed David in his own armor - he put a bronze helmet on his head and gave him armor plate to wear. <sup>39</sup> David buckled his sword on his armor and tried to walk, but he wasn't used to such equipment. David said to Sha'ul, "I can't move wearing these things, because I'm not used to them." So David took them off.

**You can't serve God in someone else's anointing or strength. Every believer must discover their individual strengths, weaknesses, and gifts to build upon your strengths so that God may and will use when the time arises! IT begins with**

**Mark 12:28-30.** One of the Torah-teachers came up and heard them engaged in this discussion. Seeing that Yeshua answered them well, he asked him, "Which is the most important mitzvah of them all?" <sup>29</sup> Yeshua answered, "The most important is, 'Sh'ma Yisra'el, ADONAI Eloheinu, ADONAI echad [Hear, O Isra'el, the LORD our God, the LORD is one], <sup>30</sup> and you are to love ADONAI your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your understanding and with all your strength.'

**Changing the world begins by Loving God with All OF YOUR STRENGTH brings self-change, transforming yourselves to God's will and ways so that God may use**

**YOUR physical and inner strength!! Impact comes after Intimacy! Each and every one of us have been given a strength, some several! Some worship, some intercessory prayer, others a spirit of service, to some the strength of hospitality, to others healing, to some discernment, others finance. Courage, Patience, and Trust: Strength is not just physical; it involves inner, divine qualities that help. The word reveals that Adonai uses our strengths to empower us and guide us in our lives. It emphasizes that our abilities are not just about what we can accomplish but about the divine purpose behind them. By recognizing and utilizing our heavenly strengths, we can better serve others and glorify God reminding us that they are a gift from God.**

**Spiritual strength in scripture is about drawing on the power of Adonai to face difficulties with courage and conviction. It is a deep-rooted belief in God's presence and promises, which enables individuals to persevere through trials and tribulations. Bother examples I used were facing great adversity! By understanding spiritual strength, we can overcome any obstacle with a resilient spirit and trust in God's unfailing strength and love.**