



STRONG ENOUGH TO SERVE

GOSPEL LIFE: ROMANS SERIES: EPISODE 18 OF 19

Romans 15

MAIN IDEA: SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS USING YOUR STRENGTH TO SERVE OTHERS, ADVANCE THE GOSPEL, AND TRUST GOD'S DIRECTION.

I. A MATURE FAITH SERVES OTHERS (15:1-13)

A. Bear The Burdens of the Weak (15:1-4)

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 15:1-4

B. Pursue Unity That Glorifies God (15:5-7)

*May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus. 15:5
That together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 15:6-7*

C. God's Plan Has Always Included The Nations (15:8-13)

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs. And in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people. Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him. The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. 15:8-13

II. A MATURE FAITH LIVES ON MISSION (15:14-21)

MATURE BELIEVERS CARE ABOUT WHAT CHRIST CARES ABOUT.

A. Paul Explains His Calling (15:14-19)

I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. Because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience. By the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God. 15:14-19

B. Paul's Holy Ambition (15:20-21)

My ambition has been to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation. Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand. 15:20-21

III. A MATURE FAITH TRUSTS GOD'S DIRECTION 15:22-33

MATURE BELIEVERS MAKE PLANS BUT TRUST GOD TO DIRECT THEIR STEPS.

A. Delays Are Not Denials (15:22-29)

This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. Since I no longer have any room for work in these regions... I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain. At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. 15:22-29

B. Never Underestimate Prayer (15:30-33)

I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf. That I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints. So that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. May the God of peace be with you all. Amen. 15:30-33

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