

Sermon Notes 4/27/2025

Growing Strong in God's Grace Fortalecernos en la gracia de Dios

How does grace strengthen us?
¿Cómo nos fortalece la gracia?

1. Grace strengthens us through _____.

La gracia nos fortalece a través de _____.

Hebrews 13:12-13 (Hebreos 13:12-13)

Philippians 4:13 (Filipenses 4:13)

2. Grace strengthens us through _____.

La gracia nos fortalece a través de la _____.

Hebrews 13:15-17 (Hebreos 13:15-17)

Romans 12:1 (Romanos 12:1)

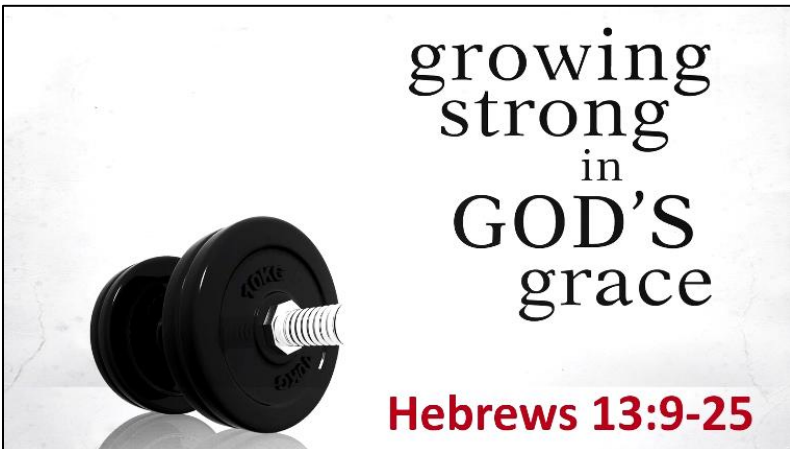
Psalms 59:16-17 (Salmos 59:16-17)

3. Grace strengthens us through _____.

La gracia nos fortalece a través de la _____.

Hebrews 13:18-21 (Hebreos 13:18-21)

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (2 Tesalonicenses 2:16-17)



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 25: April 27 – May 4

Hebrews 13:9-25

In the final chapter of Hebrews, the author gives his readers some practical instructions before he prays for them. Again, he emphasizes how the New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant. This has been his argument throughout the book as he urged the Jewish Christians to remain faithful to Christ and resist the temptation to go back to Judaism. However, in verse 9, he reminds all of us that “it is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace.” This is the key to remaining faithful to Christ. We must feed our hearts and minds with the grace of God.

Read Hebrews 13:9-25

1. According to verse 9, what should we avoid so we don’t get “carried away” spiritually?

Albert Mohler notes,

The author uses two noteworthy words to describe the kind of teaching we should avoid: various and strange. Theological variation in the gospel is not something to be embraced; it is something to be avoided. After all, there is only one faith, one gospel, and one Savior. Additionally, we should be able to recognize a teaching as strange when it runs contrary to the sound doctrine of Scripture. (Mohler, 227)

2. What is a good way to strengthen our hearts spiritually? (13:9)

3. What did the writer say about the altar of Christ? (13:10)

N. T. Wright comments,

This must be a reference to the heavenly sanctuary itself, as expounded earlier in the letter, at which they will be allowed not just into the outer courts, as in the Jerusalem Temple, but into the holy of holies itself, since they have themselves been made holy by the blood of Jesus... Verse 10 insists that those who do not avail themselves of the new covenant privileges now available through Jesus are not allowed at this, the ultimate ‘altar’. God has established the new covenant, and no promises remain for those who refuse its blessings. (Wright, 119)

4. What happened to the bodies of the animals that were sacrificed as sin offerings? (13:11)
5. Where did Jesus suffer and die as a sacrifice for our sins? (13:12)
6. What are we commanded to do in verse 13?

Charles Swindoll writes,

How easy it would have been for those first-century Jewish believers in Christ to flee from the scorn associated with their devotion to the crucified Messiah! The truth is, the closer we align ourselves—with firm devotion—to the unchanging truths of the faith, the closer we align ourselves with the sufferings Christ endured. With Him, we take up the cross of reproach through abuse, misunderstanding, and persecution (Phil. 1:29; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:12–19). (Swindoll, 222)

7. What perspective will help us to bear the disgrace of Christ? (13:14)
8. What are we commanded to do in verse 15?
9. What kind of sacrifices are pleasing to God? (13:16)
10. What are the benefits of obeying our spiritual leaders? (13:17)

Jim Girdwood and Peter Verkruyse observe,

Participating in leadership ministry within the church is not easy. It is time consuming and emotionally demanding. Those who are to be led can make the job either a “joy” or a “burden.” To lead God’s church is to be entrusted with the care of the spiritual well-being of God’s flock. And God holds leaders responsible, not only for their own lives but for their watchful care over the church. James suggested to his readers that “Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly” (3:1). Leading the church is an awesome responsibility and a demanding task. But it is also the greatest privilege in the universe. (Girdwood and Verkruyse, 432)

11. How did the author want his readers to pray for him? (13:18-19)

Swindoll notes,

Though he knew that he and his ministry team were operating with a “good conscience” (13:18), he also knew that the warnings he had extended to the recipients with regard to backsliding applied equally to all believers. Without the mutual prayer support of fellow believers, the author himself could potentially turn his attention away from Christ and His superiority in pressing on. (Swindoll, 226-227)

12. How did the author pray for his readers? (13:20-21)

Girdwood and Verkruyse write,

In regard to his readers, he prays that God may “equip” them “with everything good for doing his will.” Similarly, for his own party, he prays that God may “work in” them “what is pleasing to him.” The syntax suggests that both are accomplished “through Jesus Christ.” Seeking to please him is the only appropriate response to what he has done for us. (Girdwood and Verkruyse, 434-435)

13. What did the writer say about this letter in verse 22?

14. What did the writer say about Timothy in verse 23?

15. How did the author conclude this letter? (13:24-25)

16. How does the grace of God strengthen our hearts?

17. What does it mean for us to bear the disgrace of Christ?

18. How should Christians today offer sacrifices to God?

19. How will you pray for your spiritual leaders this week?

20. What sacrifices will you offer to God this week?

Sources cited:

Girdwood, Jim and Peter Verkruyse. *Hebrews*. College Press, 1997.

Mohler, R. Albert Jr. *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews*. Holman, 2017.

Swindoll, Charles. *Insights on Hebrews*. Tyndale, 2017.

Wright, N.T. *Hebrews for Everyone*. WJK Press, 2023.