

Being Strong for the Moment

Isaiah 40:30-31 Joshua 1:1-7a

Isaiah 40:30-31 God offers strength when world's strength fails.
God's strength is renewable. World wears down our strength,

Life has moments of opportunity, moments that define us. McKesson
Gethsemane moment: Moment of commitment to God despite the cost
Agonized, knew God's will, "any other way", your will, accepted cost.
We agonize over God's will for us because there is a cost to us.
Agonized over our decision, knew God's will for us, accepted the cost.
Consider spiritual outcomes of decisions made in defining moments.

- I. Moses my servant is dead: defining moments usually come with change. 1981 defining moment changed our lives.

Men, if you are my age and still wearing that ponytail you wore back in the 60's, need to know Moses is dead. Time for change.

How much of our life is focused on creating what is comfortable, and maintaining what is familiar?

Joshua's defining moment: 80 yrs. not defined by...

We are defined by being strong & courageous.

Paul: Be strong in the Lord and the power of his might.

Courage is choice: Eddie Rickenbacker WW1 aerial combat Ace.
“Courage is doing what you are afraid to do, there can be no
courage unless you are scared.” Hollywood model of courage.
Courage is shown every time you do something that scares you

- II. God places people in our lives to help us get up Eccl 4:9-10 ESV.
There are times that we need help getting up.
Prov. 13:20 People can either strengthen or weaken our lives.

1. Identify the people that God sent to strengthen you.
Circles of influence. Intimate, acquaintance, ministry.
Strength is renewed by fellowship with the intimate circle.

Intimate group: They are a “Friend to your destiny.”
Traits “Friend to my destiny.”

They encourage our walk with God. Feel stronger with them.
They have a vested interest in our destiny. How can I know?
They have wants for me not from me. Help build church.

They challenge our behavior. How we interact with others.
Separate people from their behavior. Value vs behavior.
Breakdown in communication when one person is talking
behavior, and second is defending personal value.
See through fog of emotion. Too much emotion drains str.
Some live under an emotional cloud. “Pig Pen”
Feel trapped by emotions of others. can’t talk about it.

2. The Strengthening power of worship songs and their redemptive message.

Music: Has the power to take you to another place & time.
Worship music creates moments of strength to draw from.

Hymns take me back to my formative years in Christianity.
Rock of strength in college years: belief in God challenged.

Rolling Stones will take you back: not a spiritual experience.
Their hit Honky Tonk Women & hymn Blessed Assurance.
Those songs will take you to two different destinations.

Strength built by regular Practice & Power of the Message.

PRACTICE: Make Worship/worship music a daily discipline.
Daily transfusion of faith & hope that builds inner strength.

MESSAGE: The message imparts strength to the music.

In 1947 Howard Thurmon lecture Harvard "Negro Spirituals"
The message gave a strength & hope slavery couldn't take away. Slavery took everything else. "Time & distance"
Songs spoke of judgement Day: all put right. Living hope

April 15,1912: RMS Titanic sank "Nearer my God to Thee."

Faced with dire circumstances, when hope & strength seem gone, turn to God in worship & let him lift, reassure, & recharge. Even when death is impending, strength to face it.

