

WOMEN OF STRENGTH

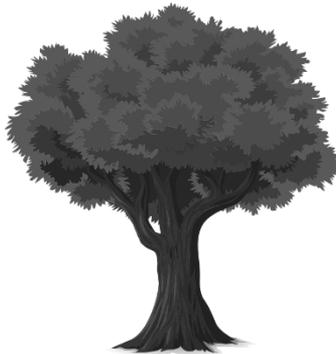
August 6, 2023
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Proverbs 31:25

*Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she smiles at the future.*

I. What is this clothing?

- A woman of strength is someone clothed with strong, honorable character.
- This character is absolutely necessary for a Psalm 1 woman to survive in a Psalm 2 world.



II. What is this character?

The world’s description vs. God’s description

The strong woman of the world	The strong woman of God
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-confident • Cultivates her own interests • Follows her heart • Self-aware • Proud • Stands up for herself and what she believes in • Speaks her heart and mind • Unbothered by what others say/think • True to one’s self • Confident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reverent • Not a malicious gossip • Not enslaved to [<i>anything addicting or controlling</i>] • A teacher of what is good • Encourages younger women in godly living • Loves husband and children [<i>affectionate love for those God has given her to love and nurture</i>] • Sensible • Pure • Works diligently [<i>giving priority to the realm God has given her to steward</i>] • Kind • Pure • Submissive

III. Where does this strength come from?

A. The source of strength: God Himself

Ephesians 6:10-11

*Finally, be strong **in the Lord** and in the strength of **His might**. Put on the full **armor of God**, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*

- The armor (or clothing) is the Lord's.
- But I must put it on!

B. Clothing ourselves with this strength

1. Delighting in the Word

Psalm 1

*But [her] **delight** is in the law of the LORD, and in His law [she] meditates day and night. [She] will be like a tree **firmly** planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf **does not wither**; And in whatever [she] does, [she] **prosper** (V. 2-3).*

- The strong, flourishing tree of Psalm 1 is a result of deep roots in fertile soil.
- The strong, flourishing woman of God is a result of deep roots in the soil of God's Word.



2. Joy in the Lord

Nehemiah 8:10b

Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

- Delighting in the Word of God brings us to delight in God Himself, the source of true joy.
- Our sin is our greatest weakness, but when it is confessed, the joy in the Lord that results from forgiveness becomes our greatest source of strength.
- Practical suggestion: *Prayers of Adoration*

3. A pilgrim mindset

Psalm 84

How blessed is the [wo]man whose strength is in You; in whose heart are the highways to Zion! Passing through the valley of Baca they make it a spring; the early rain also covers it with blessings. They go from strength to strength; every one of them appears before God in Zion (V. 5-7).

- “The Psalmist realized that God’s blessing is on those who set their *hearts* on pilgrimage.”
- “Because she has been redeemed, [the pilgrim] is free from bondage to a self-centered perspective on her place of weeping. Because she has a pilgrim perspective, she sees the dry places redemptively, and she reacts to them redemptively.” [Susan Hunt, *The True Woman*, pp. 96-97]

4. Humble submission to weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”
Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so
that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well
content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with
persecutions, with difficulties for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak,
then I am strong.*

- The strength of a godly woman requires humility, self-sacrifice, death to self and our own desires.
- That “weakness” becomes strength of character that adorns the doctrine of God to a watching world.
- Whatever your limitations are, you can glory in the fact that you are weak because God is preventing you from being self-sufficient—from looking into yourself to muster up strength—so that He can display His strength and sufficiency in you!



When thy days on earth are past,
Christ will call thee home at last,
His redeeming love to praise,
Who hath strengthened all thy days.

Frances R. Havergal

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