

# DEBORAH AND BARAK: LOOKING TO GOD IN STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS

*Pastor Lucas Almeida—Judges 4-5—Central Baptist Church—June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

## INTRODUCTION

We need to constantly direct our entire hearts away from ourselves and turn it towards God.

**Romans 6:11**—*So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

Judges' Cycle: sin > servitude > supplication > salvation

*“The Lord's servants cannot serve him in their own strength, for they cannot even live unless his grace abounds towards them.”* —**Charles Spurgeon**

## STRENGTH

Strength comes from the Lord.

- **Exodus 15:2**—*The LORD is my strength and my song...*
- **Habakkuk 3:19**—*GOD, the Lord, is my strength...*
- **Philippians 4:13**—*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*
- **Ephesians 6:10**—*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*

Was Deborah a judge?

Deborah was the judge in the spiritual sense, and Barak was the judge in the military sense.

Deborah was strong in her faithfulness.

**Luke 12:37**—*Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes.*

Deborah was strong in her faith.

Faith that is from the Lord points others towards the Lord.

**Ephesians 4:29**—*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

## WEAKNESS

Weakness comes from the Lord.

- **Job 13:15**—*Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face.*
- **Psalm 94:12**—*Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O LORD, and whom you teach out of your law...*
- **1 Corinthians 11:32**—*But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.*
- **2 Corinthians 12:9**—*Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

**Exodus 33:15**—*“If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.”*

The confidence of a believer must rest on the fact that God is with us.

God has designed his people to be led by godly, humble, confident men; but when men fail to lead both men and women suffer.

Christian men don't let things happen, Christian men, by faith in Christ and through the grace of God, make things happen.

**1 Corinthians 16:13**—*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*

**Hebrews 11:32–34**—*[32] And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—[33] who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, [34] quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.*

The Lord loves to accomplish great things through weak faith.

What matters ultimately is not the size of one's faith, but the object of it.

## TRIUMPH

While chapter 4 is written in prose, chapter 5 is written in the form of a poem.

Our victories must not turn into self-accolades, but into songs of praise and thankfulness to the one who gives victory to the weak.