

## Be A Man — 06/13/21

**TEXT- Eph 6:10** *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Deu 31:6* *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

### INTRO – Man up – Do your job – Be A Man

**Joshua was leading a new generation receiving the heritage of the past.**

#### The points noted by Moses:

1. That both young and old were to live for God and do His will.
2. That the will of God, was found in the Book of the Law.
3. Men were to "fear" the Lord their God, and to "observe to do all the words of this Law."

- **Be strong and of a good courage,....** The Septuagint, "play the man, and be strong;" be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might,

### I. The Necessity of Being Strong

**1 Co 16:13** *Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*

**A Christian life is a war.**

**There's a civil war on the inside of man's heart.** **Gal 5:17** *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

#### A. There's a war in a Christian's soul, in his own heart

**Rom 7:18** *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

**One of the signs that a man has been saved by God is the feeling of that conflict in the soul.**

#### B. There is a war in the world.

**Friendship of the world is the enmity of God** **Jas 4:4** *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

**1 John 2:15** *"Love not the world neither the things of the world"*

The man that loves the world is an enemy to God.

Worldliness is difficult identify and describe. It's not something you can hold in your hand. It is hard even to point out. Worldliness is an attitude.

- **Worldliness can enter into the way you dress.**
- **Worldliness can enter into the thoughts you think,**
- **Worldliness can enter into the words you say,**
- **Worldliness can enter into the money that you use,**
- **Worldliness can enter into the friendships that you make**

- **Worldliness can enter into the places that you go**

Not only is a Christian at war in his soul, not only is a Christian at war in the world, but

#### C. There is a war in the Spirit

*"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, rulers, spiritual wickedness"* **Ephesians 6:12**

When a man is a Christian, he fights not against flesh and blood **Eph. 6:12** You couldn't hit it. You couldn't shoot it. You couldn't touch it. You can't see it. You can't describe it, but it is there just as real and just the same.

### II. The Means of Being Strong

**How does a man gain victory?**

**How does a man overcome and fight these spirits that are led by Satan?**

- **Our warfare is not carnal, but it's spiritual.**
- **It is not terrestrial; it is heavenly,**
- **The means of our conquest lie in the strong arm of Jehovah God.**

*In the great naval engagement led by Lord Nelson [Horatio Nelson, 1758-1805], on the top masthead of his flagship, he placed a banner that the whole fleet could read, and it said: "England expects every man to do his duty."*

God expects every man to do his duty **Gal 6:4-5** *But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For every man shall bear his own burden.*

Brother, you're to fight. You're a soldier. You're numbered with the elect.

**"Be strong, therefore, in the Lord and in the power of His might"**

**A. This strength is not physical strength – "be strong"**

**It's a wonderful thing to be a giant physically.**

It's impressive when a man has tremendous height or stature.

The kind of a war that a Christian wages has nothing to do with physical prowess. "Be strong in the Lord" It's not physical strength.

**B. It's not intellectual strength.**

It's not intellectual strength in itself.

**C. It is strength of the soul.** It is strength of the heart. It's the strength of principle. It's the strength of conviction. It's the strength of God. It's the strength of soul persuasion. It is the strength of dedication:

*"be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might"* **Eph 6:10**

That's the strength of Moses who, when he decided to choose affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of Egypt **Heb. 11:23-26** The three Hebrew children had when they wouldn't bow to the statue.

Don't listen to the call of evil,

Don't far from the smallest criticism.

**Don't bow down! Be strong in the Lord!**

Be like John the Baptist taking a stand for righteousness

The apostles who defied the court of the Sanhedrin **Acts 4:13-20.**

**It's the strength of John Bunyan [1628-1688] in a Bedford [England] jail for ten, for twelve years. And the king said, "On any day, on any day, that you will promise not to preach the gospel of the Son of God, on any day you'll promise not to preach, you may have your liberty."**

And John Bunyan replied, "I had rather stay in this jail until the moss grows over my eyelids rather than say, I wouldn't preach the gospel."

*"be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might"* **Ephesians 6:10**

**This kind of strength comes from heaven.**

It's the kind of strength that leans upon Jehovah's arm **Isa 26:4** *Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:*

**Heb 11:27** *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*

*I saw the martyr at the stake,*

*The flames could not His courage shake*

*Nor death his soul appall;*

*I asked him whence his strength was given,*

*He looked triumphantly to heaven,*

*And answered, "Christ – Christ is all."*

**D. This is a strength that comes from kneeling.**

- **This is a strength that comes from a humble heart**

**1 Peter 5:6** *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

- **This is a strength that comes from commitment.**
- **This is the strength that comes from prayer** **Philippians 4:6-7**

Example of Daniel:

And the king said, "Any man that shall call on the name of his God shall be thrown into the den of lions" **Daniel 6:7-9**

And when they reported to Daniel, he went as his accustomed place and habit was to the window that opened toward Jerusalem

### **III. This generation Must Be Strong**

**A. A new generation was entering the Promised Land**

**B. A new generation must claim the promises of God today**

**C. Will you stand up and be a man**

**CONCL-**

Alvest was born in government housing in New Orleans to a young girl named Genesta when she was only sixteen and his father, who had been busted for robbing homes in an upper-class part of town. His father Benny was called the pillowcase bandit

Genesta's father, Giuseppe, was a runner for Al Capone and his sister was one of Capone's girlfriends. Giuseppe's parents, Vito and Filippa, were from Sicily and were known for getting in all sorts of trouble. Vito was a lady's man and was known for having a side-girl or two.

Genesta's uncle Henry. Like the rest of Alvest's family, Henry had been living in darkness. One night, while Henry was walking along Canal Street in New Orleans, this was when Henry first learned the Salvation Army did more than just ring bells at Christmas and collect money for those going through rough times. Henry put his faith in Christ and began studying God's Word. Henry joined the Salvation Army and attended their seminary.

In time, Henry led almost his whole family to Christ, including Genesta and her son Alvest. Alvest felt the Lord calling him to go to a Christian college. God also provided a wonderful career, a godly wife, and three kids, including a son named Jason.

Jason today is a Christian because his great uncle Henry, his grandma Genesta, and his dad Alvest all decided to trust and obey God. Their obedience changed the whole direction of their family.