

## Virtues of A Strong Christian.

Text: 1 Corinthians 16:13 - 14 "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. (14.) Let all your things be done with charity."

### A. Introduction

1. All mankind desires to be strong in everything, because weakness shows us to be degradation, danger and humiliating failure. Therefore we all want to show our strength and be strong.
2. In spiritual realm, a spiritually weak person is an easy prey of the devil, but a strong believer who puts his trust in the Lord will truly experience good success for the glory of God. The Lord wants us to be strong and He uses the Bible in encouraging us to be firm in Him. **Ephesians 6:10** "Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**" - **2 Timothy 2:1** "Thou therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**"
3. 1 Corinthians 16:13 – 14 shows the Christian what it takes to be strong in the Lord and in this world. It takes these qualities to defeat Satan and his traps.
4. As we study the Word of God, the Lord will give us a wider understanding concerning the expression; "Be strong". We really need to encourage other believers to be strong in the Lord and to stir up one another to desire to have those strength-giving virtues so we may contribute influence that could build up the force we need in our spiritual battle.

### B. A Strong Christian Is Watchful.

1. The word "watchful means - to keep awake; it comes from a Greek word meaning to keep from sleeping.
2. Watch ye - Against all your seen and unseen enemies.
3. **Matthew 25:13** "**Watch therefore,** for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." - **Mark 13:35** "**Watch ye therefore:** for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:" - **Luke 21:36**

“**Watch ye therefore, and pray always**, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

4. **1 Corinthians 15:34** “Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”
5. Watchfulness is a must-have in the life of a Christian. A strong man who is not watchful will surely fall. Strength without watchfulness is feebleness. In **1 Peter 5:8**, it says, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” We should not underestimate our adversary, but keep an eye on him because he is more devious than we could imagine.

#### C. A Strong Christian Is Firm In The Faith

1. Strong and firm in faith means being firm in holding and defending the truths of the gospel. This keeps one from being a “tossed to and fro” person. **Ephesians 4:14** "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;"
2. **1 Corinthians 15:1** “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;”
3. It is true that the more a believer loves God, the more he will desire to know Him, and the more he will respect His Word. As a direct result, the more he will become stronger even in the end times. In **Daniel 11:32**, it is says, And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. - The word “exploits,” is supplied by the translators, but not improperly. The meaning is that they would show great ability, and perform famous deeds in battle.

#### D. A Strong Christian Is Courageousness – “quit you like men”

1. This means - to act manly – I think **1 Corinthians 14:20** defines this best “Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye

children, but in understanding be men.”

2. We cannot imagine how shameful a man would be if he looks so strong, yet so afraid to face his opponent. A strong man who lacks inner strength will never win a battle. In **I Kings 2:2**, David said to Solomon, “I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;”
3. Great opportunities come and go; time after time challenges of life stand before us; great rewards are waiting for us; but without watchfulness, firmness in the faith and courage, great success will never be achieved.
4. Be courageous and contribute strength to the Church. Don’t give the devil an opportunity to weaken your spiritual life. Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Remember that the battle is the Lord’s and what He requires of us is just to be watchful, to stand fast in the faith, to take courage, to be strong and to do things in charity for the glory of God.
5. **Philippians 4:13** “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”