

Session #1 “Strong in the Lord”

(1) *The _____ for Strength*

We need a strong hand to keep us steady in life.

Danger:

The flesh seeks to _____ us.

The world seeks to _____ us.

The devil seeks to _____ us.

Despair:

Suffering robs us of _____, thereby undermining our _____ to God’s will.

Suffering robs us of _____, thereby undermining our _____ in God’s power.

We will abandon the truth or compromise our conscience.

(2) *The _____ of Strength*

“The strength of every saint lies in the Lord of hosts.” – William Gurnall

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1).

Being “strong in the Lord” is to fix our eyes on God who is “our refuge and strength.”

It implies two acts of faith ...

The First Act of Faith: A Settled Persuasion that God is Almighty In Power

“I remember your name in the night, O LORD” (Ps. 119:55). See Ex. 3:14–15.

-1-
Infinity

*“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable”
(Ps. 145:3).*

1. In relation to “being”: _____ (John 5:26)

God has life from Himself (*a se*). “The God who made the world and all things in it, since he is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything” (Acts 17:24–25). God is self-existent and self-sufficient.

2. In relation to “time”: _____ (Ps. 93:2)

God is above all succession of time. “They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end” (Ps. 102:26–27).

3. In relation to “space”: _____ (Ps. 139:7)

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Immutability

“I the LORD do not change” (Mal. 3:6).

1. God’s _____: “I am the LORD”

Because God is above time, He doesn’t experience successive states of being. He doesn’t change because change requires a cause that makes something to be. But there’s no cause prior to God.

2. God’s _____: “I do not change”

See James 1:17. Because God is unchangeable, He’s incapable of alteration (Heb. 13:8). He’s as He was before the universe was made and as He will be after the universe is remade.

- *God’s _____ doesn’t change.* “God exists forever; and He is always the same. He does not grow older. His life does not wax or wane. He does not mature or develop. He does not get stronger, or weaker, or wiser, as time goes by.” – J. I. Packer

- *God's _____ doesn't change.* "God never becomes less truthful, or merciful, or just, or good, than He used to be. His character is today, and always will be, exactly what it was." – J. I. Packer
- *God's _____ doesn't change.* "God's words stand forever, as abidingly valid expressions of His mind and thought. No circumstances prompt Him to recall them. No changes in His own thinking require Him to amend them." – J. I. Packer
- *God's _____ doesn't change.* "What He does in time, He planned from eternity. And all that He planned in eternity He carries out in time. And all that He has in His word committed Himself to do will infallibly be done." – J. I. Packer

"He is forever the same: unchangeable in greatness, goodness, wisdom, power, holiness, faithfulness, fullness, and sufficiency. What He was, He is; what He is, He will be forever. Thus, we should sit down and contemplate this attribute until we find our hearts affected and overawed by it." – Edward Pearse

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Incomprehensibility

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!" (Rom. 11:33).

1. **Unfathomable** _____

2. **Unsearchable** _____

3. **Inscrutable** _____

"Who has known [measured] the mind of the LORD, or who has been his counselor?" (Isa. 40:13). "Who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" (Job 41:11).

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Sovereignty

"For from him and through him and to him are all things" (Rom. 11:36).

Because God is infinite, He's independent. This is the essence of sovereignty.

- God is independent in _____ (Dan. 4:35).

- God is independent in _____ (Ps. 115:3).

“If it is a contest of strength, behold he is strong” (Job 9:19).

**The Second Act of Faith:
A Settled Persuasion that God’s Power is Engaged on Our Behalf**

“God is on your side and has all your enemies in His hand, and He can rebuke them or destroy them in a moment. Oh, what is the breath and fury of dust or devils against the Lord Almighty!” – Richard Baxter

“If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31).

The Father _____

The Son _____

The Spirit _____

“As a father gives his child his arm to steady him, so God reaches out His almighty power for His saints.” – William Gurnall

God Most High is our _____ and _____ (Gen. 15:1).

God’s blessedness is ours to make us eternally happy, His grace to forgive us all our sins, His faithfulness to fulfill all His promises to us, His joy to satisfy our deepest longings, His power to protect us from our enemies, and His majesty to make us glorious forever.

Application:

“There are no sins God’s people are more subject to than *unbelief* and *impatience*.” – Thomas Watson

(1) _____ (Rom. 8:28)

(2) _____ (1 Peter 1:5)