

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 24, 2025
“Living the Great Commandment ~ With All Our Strength”
Ephesians 3:14-21

Loving God with all of our strength—or power or might—as some translations put it, is about so much than just what we do _____.

***Me’od* (Hebrew) = strength or might = adverb =**

***Ischys* (Greek) =**
***Mammon* (Aramaic) =**

The point here is the call to love God with all our strength/might/power isn’t only about our _____ muscle and the things we do, but also about everything we have at our _____—everything we have available for honouring God. This includes:

Paul prays a prayer of _____, that the Ephesians would be able to accomplish the things that the Lord wants to them to accomplish, and live the life He wants them to live, a life worthy of their calling in Christ Jesus, through the strength that only God can _____.

3 UNDERSTANDINGS

#1. God can do _____ through us.

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” (John 14:12)

When we fail to believe that all things are _____ for God, and that God can do anything through us, our faith becomes _____, impotent, and powerless to make any real change in the world.

3 REASONS WHY CAN WE TRUST JESUS’ WORDS

- **God’s resources are _____.**

“Out of His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you the mighty inner strengthening of His Holy Spirit.” (Ephesians 3:16)

No matter how much we have, our resources, as individuals and as a church, are ultimately _____. However, as followers of Jesus, we’re

able to draw upon God’s resources to accomplish what He wants us to accomplish in the world. And unlike us, God’s resources are _____.

“Put me to the test and you will see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things.” (Malachi 3:10)

- **God’s ability is _____.**

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that’s at work within us....” (Eph 3:20)

God is able to do incredible things through us. So much so, we can’t begin to _____ it. Why? Because He’s God.

- **God’s power is _____.**

“That power is like the working of His mighty strength which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead.” (Ephesians 3:19-20)

The greatest power in the universe is _____ power, a power that can bring life to the dead, the power of _____.

If the resurrection teaches us anything, it’s that God can work in our lives immeasurably _____ than we can ask or imagine.

“Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.” (Mark 10:27)

Do you believe that everything is possible for God?

#2. We can’t do anything without Christ’s _____.

TWO COMMON ERRORS

- **“I work for Jesus using my own _____.”**

This approach is all about _____: my strengths and accomplishments, my gifts, talents, and abilities. However, this approach is not only self-centered, but can also lead leads to spiritual _____ and physical burnout

“I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” (Phil 4:13)

- **“Jesus does it all and I do _____.”**

“I work hard and struggle to do this while his mighty power works in me.” (Colossians 1:29)

It’s not about us, it’s all about _____. However, we have an important role to play. By grace, we’re _____ with Christ, and He calls us to

work along side Him, using the strength and the gifts, talents, and abilities that He _____ us.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit...Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.” (John 15:1-4)

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 5:5)

“My flesh and my heart may fail but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” (Psalm 73:26)

Our strength is limited, however, God’s strength is _____, it never runs out.

“Last of all I want to remind you that your strength must come from the Lord’s mighty power within you.” (Ephesians 6:10)

Where does your strength come from?

How connected are you to Jesus?

#3. Our weakness can become God’s _____.
weakness =

We all have them, we all struggle to some degree, because we’re all human and we’re _____ in our abilities. Despite this reality, the world tends to focus on strength, and encourages us to look at our weaknesses as negative things to be avoided or _____.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5)

***Praus* = meek** = far more than just the English:

Biblical meekness isn’t _____, as the world understands it, but rather refers to strength under _____ or demonstrating power without undue _____.

WHY DOES JESUS SAY THIS ABOUT THE MEEK?

- **Because Jesus knows that our _____ pulls us away from God’s _____.**

When we feel strong, when we feel like we’ve got it all together, we tend to depend on _____ and our own strength and abilities. However, when we’re weak or in need, we tend to depend more on _____.

“Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things...” (Jer 9:23-24)

- **Because Jesus knows that our _____ draws us towards God’s _____.**

Gideon is a perfect picture of the places in our lives where we’re _____, and know that we need to _____ on God’s strength.

“I prayed to God to deliver me. I asked Him three times. But He didn’t deliver me. And God came to me and said, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

God’s grace is _____—it’s all we need.

- **Because Jesus knows that our _____ reveals God’s _____.**

“We have this treasure in clay jars.” (2 Corinthians 4:7)

The treasure that Paul is speaking of represents the _____—the gift of forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life in Christ—and we’re the clay jars that contain and _____ this message.

We’re _____, fragile, and easily broken, yet God still uses us, because, again, it’s not about us, it’s all about Him.

God put this treasure in us—in clay jars—so that He can show the world that this strength and power is from Him and not us, so that we won’t become a _____ or stumbling block to anyone encountering His _____.

“To the faithful, you show yourself faithful.” (Psalm 18:25)

Do you focus more on your strengths or weaknesses?

How have you allowed God to transform your weaknesses into strength? How is God strong in and through you?