

Strength

*A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.
For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is
safety.
Proverbs 24:5-6*

What attracts people to strength? And to what kinds of strength are they attracted? The innumerable ads that call men and women to strength prey upon this intrinsic desire. Pictures of strength are used to sell many products and services. Some may be legitimate. Others are nothing but idle claims – especially those that promise strength without effort or commitment. But, generally speaking, strength is a good thing to desire and to obtain. The text before us assumes that. We know from references throughout scripture that the LORD is strong, and also gives strength (e.g., Psalm 105:4; Isaiah 26:4).

Yet, while people are often attracted to physical strength, the emphasis here is on a multi-faceted strength. The first is a strength that comes from wisdom. This may not be seen in rippling muscles in someone's body, but can be observed in actions, words, and in the discrete control of either. The second is the result of knowledge. Knowledge without wisdom may be used improperly or even for evil. Yet this passage tells us that the one who is wise and knowledgeable gains more strength. In the example given, the one who must determine a strategy for either potential or ensuing war wisely enlists the wisdom and knowledge of others.

The majority of us are probably not attempting feats of physical strength or preparing strategies for an army. However, we daily must prepare for spiritual warfare and encounters that require strength of mind, soul, and spirit. Thus, we must tap the source of wisdom within the word of God for strength in decision-making, especially when the right decision goes against the flow of popular opinion. We also need knowledge from the Spirit of God to understand unselfishly and from all perspectives the whole of a situation. In many cases, we need increased knowledge from a number of wise and experienced counsellors to be strengthened in a best decision. Let us therefore apply these principles, to be strong in the LORD and in the power of His might.