

Strengthening Power

And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong.

And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou has strengthened me.

Daniel 10:19

In the Old Testament God used prophets to convey His message to His people. Years of national disobedience had brought the nation of Israel into captivity. God selected prophets to be His mouthpiece for warnings and encouragement to the people of Israel. In the book of Daniel, we find the prophet in captivity in Babylon. With much of Israel's national culture and religious life disrupted, a message from God was of great importance. Much of Daniel's message pertained to the destruction of the Gentile powers and the establishment of God's kingdom. Being far from his homeland, Daniel is strengthened when he finally hears from the Lord after a season of prayer and fasting. May the Lord help us to see some parallels in this text from which we can benefit spiritually as we seek a word from our Lord.

God always has a means by which to communicate with His people. Though the days of the prophets have passed, God has not abandoned us. Today, we have the inspired Word of God accompanied by the Holy Spirit who delivers the divine message to us. As Christians, like Daniel, we are sojourning in a foreign land. Although our living conditions are considerably more comfortable than Daniel's, we are quite a distance from our eternal glorious home. Sometimes, God's voice can seem distant and His message obscured to us. We read and search His Word, but the full impact is diminished by the frailties and burdens of this life that can be like static drowning out the voice of the Lord. The resulting distant feeling can only be alleviated by sincerely and prayerfully seeking the Lord though the answer is not always immediate. There are seasons when our prayers are hindered leaving us wondering at His divine silence. But He knows our frame and promises to hear the cries of His children and always arrives with an answer in His time. After enduring a season of trials, the Lord comes to us with strengthening power.

Today, we have the constant availability of God's word to strengthen us. At times we may not enjoy its full power due to our lack of focus, but when we turn from all distractions and prayerfully meditate on God's Word, the Holy Spirit is unrestricted to reveal its full power. How refreshing it is to hear the Lord personally speaking to us through His word. He speaks words of encouragement, rebuke, comfort, grace, and inspiration at the right time. In His message, we have a fresh supply of strength for the journey He has planned for us.

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