

What Does It Mean To Be “Spiritually Strong”?

Conclusion: The Characteristics
and Responsibilities of the
Spiritually Strong

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Imitates Jesus.
 - 1Cor. 11:1 - “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”
 - Phil. 2:5 - “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Knows God and His will.
 - Matt. 4:1-11
 - John 7:28-29 - “Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, ‘You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know. 29 But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me.’”

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Knows God and His will.
 - Eph. 6:10-11, 13-17 - “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Does the will of God.
 - Matt. 26:39 - “He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’”
 - John 4:34 - “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.’”
 - John 6:38 - “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Does the will of God.
 - Eph. 3:11 - "...According to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord"
 - John 19:30 - "So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Does the will of God.
 - Rom. 6:16-18 - “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Does the will of God.
 - Rom. 12:1 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”
 - Gal. 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Loves

- John 13:1 - “Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”
- 1John 3:16 - “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Loves

- 1Cor. 13:1-7 - “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Serves with humility.
 - John 13:1-8, 12-17
 - Matt. 23:12 - “And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Serves with Humility.
 - Luke 22:25-27 - “And He said to them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called “benefactors.” 26 But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. 27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.”
 - Hos diakoneo - “A title form meaning ‘the one who serves’” (Strongs - 1247)

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Is meek (quiet strength)
 - Matt. 11:29 - “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
 - Matt. 27:38-43 - “Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left. 39 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads 40 and saying, ‘You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.’ 41 Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, 42 ‘He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. 43 He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, “I am the Son of God.”””

Characteristics Of Spiritual Strength

- Is meek (quiet strength)
 - Luke 23:34 - “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’”
 - John 19:8-11 - “Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, 9 and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, ‘Where are You from?’ But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Then Pilate said to Him, ‘Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?’ 11 Jesus answered, ‘You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.’”

Responsibilities Of The Spiritually Strong

- Bearing with the weaknesses of the weak.
 - Rom. 15:1-3 - “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.”
- The chief concern of the strong is not for himself, but for his neighbor.
 - 1Cor. 10:24 - “Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well being.”

Responsibilities Of The Spiritually Strong

- Abounding more and more.
 - 1Thes. 4:1, 9-10 - “Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God... 9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more”
 - 2Peter 3:18 - “...But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Responsibilities Of The Spiritually Strong

- Abounding more and more.
 - Phil. 3:12-16 - “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.”

Responsibilities Of The Spiritually Strong

- Abounding more and more.
 - Luke 12:48 - “But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”

To Become Spiritually Strong

- It should be the goal of every Christian to become spiritually strong. Begin with examining yourself sober mindedly.
 - Gal. 6:3-5 - “For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For each one shall bear his own load.”

To Become Spiritually Strong

- James 1:22-25 - “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

To Become Spiritually Strong

- To believe ourselves to be strong when we are weak is dangerous.
- To believe ourselves to be weak when we are strong is counterproductive.
- We must determine where we are in our walk with God today, so that we may know where we must go tomorrow.