

23 October 2016 – 23 Pentecost

Readings: Jer. 14:7–10, 19–22; Psalm 84:1–7; 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18; Luke 18:9–14. **Theme:** *Strength to strength* – Psalm 84:7, “They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.”



I. FROM STRENGTH. Our journey with God starts here...

Psalm 84:5, 7, “Blessed are those whose strength is in you... They go from strength...”

Exodus 15:2, “The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.”

Luke 18:14, “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Romans 5:1, “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”



II. TO.

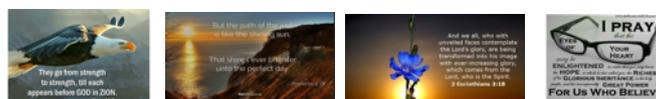
Diana Ross: *Do you know where you're going to? Do you like the things that life is showing you? Where are you going to, do you know.*

Psalm 84:7, “They go from strength to strength...”

Psalm 84:5-6, “Blessed are those... whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.”

Philippians 3:10, “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”

2 Timothy 4:7, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” Paul kept the goal in mind. **2 Timothy 4:8,** “Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”



III. STRENGTH.

Psalm 84:6, “They go from strength to **strength, till each appears before God in Zion.**”

Proverbs 4:18, “The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.”

Romans 5:3-5, “There’s more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we’re hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we’re never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can’t round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!”

John 2:10, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but **you have saved the best till now.**”

Luke 11:13, “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more** will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

2 Corinthians 3:18, “We all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with **ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

CONCLUSION: Ephesians 1:18-19, “**I pray...** that you may know... his incomparably great power for us who believe. **That power is the same as the mighty strength** he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.” **2 Timothy 4:17, 18**, “The Lord stood at my side and **gave me strength**, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion’s mouth... The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” The same is true for all of us. ☺