

Strength for Every Day

"As thy days, so shall thy strength be." – **Deuteronomy 33:25**

Summary:

God's promise, "As thy days, so shall thy strength be," assures believers that spiritual strength will be supplied for every duty and trial. Christians need divine help both for service and for suffering, because their own resources are insufficient. A growing awareness of weakness should not lead to despair, but to deeper reliance on God. His faithfulness in past difficulties gives courage for the duties and afflictions still ahead.

Outline:

1. The strength God promises

- The promise concerns spiritual strength, especially when bodily strength is limited.

2. Strength for service

- God enables believers to fulfil ordinary responsibilities and the duties of the Christian life.

3. Strength for suffering

- Christians need grace to endure opposition, hardship, chastening, and personal affliction.

4. The believer's insufficiency

- Experience teaches believers that they have no adequate strength in themselves.

5. **The faithfulness of God**

- Past help confirms God's promise and gives courage to trust him for every coming day.

Text

Once, Dr. Doddridge was walking deeply discouraged, feeling completely desolate inside. Suddenly, as he passed by a cottage door, he heard a child reading, 'As thy days, so shall thy strength be.' The impact on him was profound—like reviving life within him. Often, a single word can have a powerful effect.

What does this particular word tell us? "As thy days, so shall thy strength be."

Remaining steadfast is an act of mercy. How quickly and easily it can be shattered or diminished, leaving us with months of vanity, restless nights, and every effort feeling burdensome, every duty hard to bear. Yet, there is a spiritual strength distinct from physical power, often found separately. The Lord does not always grant his followers a giant's arm or iron sinew, but his strength is perfected in weakness. This is the strength referred to here. His people will need it for two main reasons: in service and in suffering.

Every Christian has a general duty as a man: to provide for their basic needs and support their family. This is achieved through labour, in which they must not be lazy. Beyond this, there are duties more specific to their religious role, such as believing, praying, rejecting ungodliness and worldly passions, and living soberly, justly, and godly in this wicked world. Fulfilling this noble calling is often described as a race that they must run with endurance.

Sometimes, this is also true for a soldier's life. A soldier must avoid effeminacy and endure hardships and fatigue. Even his training and exercises are often challenging, making his actual duties even tougher. Similarly, the Christian's enemies have everything that makes them formidable, so he fights not as one fighting in vain. Suffering is generally linked to service in

the divine life. In the early days of the Gospel, it was believed impossible to live a godly life in Christ Jesus without facing persecution.

So, immediately after Paul's conversion, he was warned about the intense suffering he would face. Since true religion remains consistent, some level of opposition can always be anticipated; and the hostility of the world will be evident as long as people have the freedom to express it, unrestrained by law or societal norms. However, when Christians find relief from such external trials, God can still use personal and relational hardships—often even more severe than martyrdom—to serve His purposes.

These are known as chastenings and rebukes, which one should neither despise nor become faint under. Such experiences have been common among all of God's children throughout history. They are not inflicted without reason; rather, there is a necessary purpose behind them, and their heavenly Father, the perfect judge, determines this. As much as their growth and well-being permit, He will avoid causing them pain, much like a man spares his own son who serves him.

When contemplating the future, the prospect of life can evoke anxiety in a Christian. Only discovering strength suitable for their needs truly comforts them, but they do not find this strength within themselves. The natural man remains unaware of his weakness because he does not actively seek those pursuits that demand spiritual power. In contrast, the Christian does pursue such endeavours and recognises his own lack of strength and righteousness, feeling wholly inadequate for the duties and challenges of living a divine life.

Consciousness, instead of shrinking, expands with each passing day. He need not fear this; instead, he should welcome

it, for in weakness, true strength is found. His needs are fulfilled and guaranteed by God's unerring promise: "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." We have heard and witnessed God's faithfulness in the city of our God, confirmed by all His people and free from failure. And what does our own experience reveal?

"Year after year, I have traveled in an enemy's land, carrying a troubled heart inclined to turn away from God." I used to think, "I will perish someday." But where am I today?—Pursuing God earnestly, supported by his right hand. My prayers haven't always been joyful and earnest; yet, I have continually looked toward his holy temple, and through many dark hours, I have waited for the Lord longer than those who watch for the morning.

I have often felt weak and faint, yet I believe that He gives strength to those who are weary and lifts up those who have no might. This is my way of praising His glorious grace. As a new year begins, I thank God and find encouragement—

*Here I raise mine Ebenezer:
hither, by thy help, I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home."*

This sermon is taken from William Jay's devotional, *Morning and Evening Exercises* (January 4, Morning), first published in 1854.