
THE GREAT AND THE STRONG

Exploring an amazing dual-mystery in God's Word: the impartation of "greatness" and the awakening of "strength" in the hearts and lives of God's offspring

I. **Foundational scripture:**

*Is. 53:12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with **the great**, and He shall divide the spoil with **the strong**, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

A. What did God mean by dividing “a portion with the great”?

1. The “portion” is the inheritance given to the firstborn Son as a result of His death, burial, resurrection and ascension – we are “joint heirs with Christ” (Ro. 8:17).
2. Each child of God is a part of the “church of the firstborn” and receives the ‘double-portion’ inheritance.

B. What did God mean by dividing “the spoil with the strong”?

1. The noun “spoil” means:
 - a. Plunder or booty taken from an enemy defeated in battle.
2. The verb “spoil” means:
 - a. To completely disarm a defeated foe
 - b. To strip an enemy of his precious possessions

*Col. 2:13-15 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 **Having disarmed [KJV—spoiled]***

principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

*Col. 1:12-13 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who **hath delivered** us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.*

*Ps. 119:162 I rejoice at Your Word, as one who finds **great spoil**.*

- c. The “Great God” and the “Strong Lord” has passed on His DNA to us, so it is logical that we inherit ‘greatness’ and ‘strength’ (Ti. 2:13, Ps. 89:8 KJV).

II. How do we become “the great”?:

A. Greatness through character:

*Mt. 20:26–27 “Whosoever will be **great** among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.”*

Mt. 18:4 “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

B. Greatness through awakened purpose:

*Ps. 18:32, 35 It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect...35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, **Your gentleness has made me great.***

NIV – *You stoop down to make me great.*

Ps. 8:4-6 What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels [Heb. elohiym], and You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.

C. The Hebrew word *elohiym* is translated:

1. Into the word “God” over 2,000 times
2. Into the word “god” or “gods” over 200 times
3. Into the word “judges” three times (KJV)
4. Into the word “angel” only once
5. Should it have been rendered here as “God”

D. Greatness through position and privilege:

1. In prophesying to Zacharias of John the Baptist, the angel Gabriel said, “He shall be **great** in the sight of the Lord” (Lk. 1:15).
2. The Messiah Himself verified this later when He declared, “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one **greater** than John the Baptist.” Why?
 - a. John was the last high priest of the Old Testament.
 - b. John was the last prophet of the Old Testament.
3. Jesus then added an even more startling statement, “but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is **greater** than he” (Mt. 11:11).
4. The Scripture says, “The last shall be first” (Mt. 19:30; 20:16).
5. Our claim to exceeding greatness rests solely on the fact that “the great God and our Savior” now lives in our hearts and “greater is He” that is in us than “he that is in the world” (Ti. 2:13, 1 Jn. 4:4 KJV).

III. **How do we qualify to be “the strong”?**:

- A. The Greek word translated “strong” in Hebrews 11:34 is *endunamoo* (pr. en-doo-nam-o’-o). According to Young’s Concordance it means *to make powerful inwardly*. This same rarely used word is also found in Romans 4:20, 2 Timothy 2:1, and Ephesians 6:10—scriptures that impress us to be “strong in faith,” “strong in grace,” and “strong in the Lord and the power of His might”:
- B. Strong in faith:
 1. Abraham...the father of all them that believe.

Ro. 4: 11, 18-20 *Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations...And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: he staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was **strong in faith** giving glory to God.*

1 Jn 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

C. Strong in grace:

1. In the second epistle to Timothy, Paul exhorted his pastor/protégé to “*be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*” (2 Tim. 2:1).

*Ac. 20:32 So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the **Word of His grace**, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

*Ro. 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but **under grace**.*

2. Grace is God's one-way-or-the-other plan. God will either “grace” us to live above sin or “grace” us to recover from sin—because one-way-or-the-other, if we maintain the right heart-attitude before God, He “always leads us in triumph in Christ” (2 Cor. 2:14).

*Heb. 13:9 It is a good thing that the heart be **established with grace**.*

D. Strong in the Lord:

*Eph. 6:10 Be **strong in the Lord**, and in the power of His might.*

*Eph. 1:11 **In Him** also we have **obtained an inheritance**, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.*

IV. **Our position of inheritance “in Him” (“in Christ”):**

- A. When we come under Jesus' headship, we are placed in the body of Christ and inherit all that He has and all that He is.

- B. No condemnation:

*Ro. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

C. Freedom from the law of sin and death:

*Ro. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life **in Christ Jesus** has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

D. New creation:

*2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

E. Righteousness:

*2 Cor. 5:21 For He has made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God **in Him**.*

F. Blessings:

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ.

G. Nearness to God:

Eph. 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

H. Boldness and confidence:

Eph. 3:12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

I. Life:

Ac. 17:28 For in Him we live and move and have our being.

J. Completion:

Col. 2:10 And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

K. Predestination:

Eph. 1:4 Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

L. Perfection:

Col. 1:28 That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

M. Resurrection:

1 Th. 4:16 And the dead in Christ will rise first.

N. The great promise:

Jn. 15:7 If we abide "in Him," and His words abide in us, we can ask what we will and Jesus said, "It shall be done."

O. The great confession:

Joel 3:10 Let the weak say, "I AM STRONG."

1. We are not the weak and the erring!
2. We are not the feeble and the faltering!
3. We are "THE GREAT" and "THE STRONG"!