



# Able to Strengthen You



**Romans 16:25-27**



**December 6, 2020**

## REVIEW THE PASSAGE TOGETHER

- **Read** the passage aloud.
- How does **context** affect the meaning of the passage (other passages or historical contexts)?
- What do you notice about the passage **structurally**?
- What in the passage reveals the the **tone** of the passage?

## WHAT KIND OF STRENGTH?

- **Recalling from the sermon, what does “strengthened” literally mean?**
- **Glance back through the letter of Romans. Look for controversies, questions, or divisions among the church. How do these help us understand what Paul means by being “strengthened”?**
- **See Romans 1:11. How does this inform our understanding of being “strengthened”?**
- **What is the source of being strengthened in Romans 16:25-27? How does that inform our understanding of the kind of strength Paul is talking about?**
- **Physical exhaustion is felt by achy muscles and heavy eyes. What are the symptoms of spiritual weakness? (Think of themes and crisis in Romans)**

## THE END GOAL

- **What is the end goal for Paul in the gospel and in the strengthening of the church? (16:27)**
- **How does this fit into the grand narrative of redemption for all time?**
- **How does this change the way we see our lives right now knowing where we will be in eternity?**

## DISCUSS TOGETHER

- What is your instinctive “go to” when you are down? A hobby? A person? Etc.
- God has created all manners of rest and rejuvenation (a walk, sports, coffee, etc). How can you tell the difference between the kinds of strengthening you need in your life?
- Can you recall being strengthened by the gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ? Describe that to the group.

- What means of God's strengthening you have you neglected or are you most prone to neglect? It may be gathering for preaching, personal Bible study and prayer, small group fellowship, etc.

## **PRAY TOGETHER**

Take time to share you prayer requests in regards to "strength" in your walk with Christ.

- Confess any attitudes or beliefs of self-sufficiency.
- Thank God for his care and power to strengthen us.
- Ask God to draw our minds and hearts to the gospel for our spiritual strength.
- Pray for each other as requested above.

# GUIDE FOR REVIEWING THE PASSAGE

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## Structure of the Passage

- Beginning and end
- Repeated words or phrases
- Questions and answers
- Conjunctions (for, therefore, so, and, yet, nor, but, etc)
- Progression (greater to smaller, etc).
- Metaphors / similes / word pictures / illustrations
- Quotations from other passages
- Rhetorical questions
- Genre of book or passage (narrative, epistle, song, parable, etc)
- Places, names, historical events, etc

## Tone

Is the author angry, gentle, forceful, sorrowful, excited, thoughtful, etc? How would this text be communicated in person? And how does the tone affect the meaning of the passage?

## Connecting to the Gospel of Jesus

The good news is that God loves sinners and has sent Jesus to die in our place, that he raised Jesus from the dead, and that eternal life is offered to all who trust in Christ for forgiveness of sin. The gospel, like a diamond, has many facets which make up its beauty. Consider how your passage connects to a particular facet of the gospel. Here are a few to consider:

- We are adopted as **sons** (Ephesians 1)
- In Christ we have an **inheritance** (Ephesians 1)
- we are **citizens** in Christ's **kingdom** (Colossians 1)
- we are **saved** from God's **wrath** (Romans 3).
- We are **justified** grace through Jesus' blood (Romans 3).
- We are **regenerated** by **grace** and **mercy** (Titus 3).
- We have the **indwelling spirit** as a guarantee (Ephesians 1)

## The Aim of the Passage

What does the author the passage expect from the audience? To **know** something? To **do** something? And what precisely does he want his audience to know or do?