

## **“The Christian Imperative”**

### **2 Timothy 2: 1 – 19**

Physical strength is idolized by many. To be physically weak is to be ridiculed in many cases. However, physical strength is not the highest strength as we see in Zechariah 4:6, “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty.” Considering the physical strength of Samson, how do we reconcile all his giant-like feats of strength as compared to his moral weakness? The worthiest strength is that which is moral and spiritual and comes from above. In 2 Timothy 2:1, Paul tells Timothy, “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” So the Christian Imperative (command) is, “**Be strong.**”

**Be strong in Convictions.** God needs men and women of convictions, people who will “stand their ground” based on their convictions. In the parable of the soils some seed failed because it had no root. It is the root system that keeps great trees standing through the storms that come. Many folks fail in their faith because of shallow and lightly held convictions. “Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be men of courage; be strong.” God is looking for people with convictions and we don’t want to disappoint Him as we read in Ezekiel 22:30, “I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.”

**Be strong in Christian deeds.** We must seek from God the spirit of adventure and holy daring that will lead us forth into the fields. Listen to Paul’s words to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:7, “Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all of this.” As God’s people we must be ready to move forth as doors are opened and marching orders are issued for other endeavors. We must be strong in faith and trust as we attack the evil of our time and win the victory over Satan. As members of Christ’s church we must “be strong”, since it is the command to the Christian in our convictions and deeds in order to take our stand and move forward for the edification and growth of the church thus bringing glory to God. This is all summed up in the words of the following verse: “We are not here to play, to dream, or drift; we have hard work to do, and loads to lift. Shun not the struggle; face it, ‘tis God’s gift, Be Strong!”