

Be One Of The Lord's Strong Men

Introduction - John the apostle had a way of connecting with men. He built solid friendships. He invested time in other men. Now I believe that God used John the apostle in a mighty way, and with that wisdom God had entrusted to Him, He spent time investing in men and speaking about strong men. We should always be endeavoring to develop godly men in the local church— because someone has to take the reins of leadership among God's people. And God has put the men of the church first and foremost as leaders...



Text: 1 John 2:12–14

What does it mean to be a strong man? Have you ever been to a strongman competition? One man's strength is compared to another's. The strength we are talking about this morning, though, is not **physical strength**; it is **spiritual strength**. Someone might say, well what's the difference? One lasts for a **little while**, and one **lasts for eternity**. This is the beauty of spiritual strength, God designed it for you and me that though the outward man is perishing, the **inward man can be renewed and grow stronger day by day. (2 Corinthians 4:16)** Now God is the one speaking here through the instrument of the apostle John. Let's ask this simple question this morning: Could the Lord look at you and point and say of you, "You are strong..." How many of us would like to live at the end of **verse 14 as a strong man?**

I. Little Children 'τεκνίον teknion'

This first group is the **little children's group**. **Verse 12**, you see, John addresses the little children. Now there is two words that were used in John's day to signify **children**. One is meant for what we would call 'babes'. That is the word 'teknion' used here. When you come to Christ and receive Him, the Bible says your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

II. Little Children 'παιδίον paidion'

Now, this is a slightly different word that John is using, and here he uses the word 'Paidon.' 'Paidon' means ones who are juvenile. These are some who have grown in their knowledge of the Lord. And the Bible says of them in 13b, "*I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.*" There is a **natural progression to go from an infant to grow into a younger child**. What does that look like? This is one who moves from having to be taken care of for everything to one who has some responsibility in life. One who has to be corrected from time to time. One who is still learning some of the basics of life. But then there is a third group.

1 John 2:13–14 "*13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, ... 14 ... I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*"

III. Young Men

Young men have not only reached a place of spiritual growth, but **they also possess spiritual**

strength.

IV. Fathers

Now, what makes a father a father? A father becomes a father **when they begin reproducing—when they have children; then they are fathers.** Now, when this takes place, we see biblical multiplication. We begin to see a whole host of this process start all over again. The Fathers simply take what God **has given to them, and they give it to the young men, they give it to the children, and they take care of the babes.** We do not just wake up **one day and become fathers on accident.** No, there must be growth spiritually. There must be learning from the Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus Christ through the ministry of the master teacher the Holy Spirit. There must be an acceptance of **spiritual responsibility on our parts.** Who are these strong men? Who does this apply to ideally?

1. _____ ‘Who?’

Now this phrase ‘young men’ does not refer to **age**; it refers to **stage.** So, who is John talking about? He is speaking of **every man who has been born again, is to become strong.** The only way we may be able to guide others is if **we must become strong in the Lord ourselves—strong in the power of His might. (Ephesians 6:10)**

2. When We Are _____ ‘When?’

I believe what is being said here is that **God’s design for us to be strong men should happen as early spiritually in our lives as possible.** Can I tell you that, regardless of your age, you can be spiritually a strong man?

Isaiah 40:31 *“31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagles; They shall run, and not be weary; And they shall walk, and not faint.”*

In verse 30, ironically it stated that they youth shall faint— that the young me shall utterly fall... But friend our strength comes from the Lord. We have the **‘who’** is to be a strong man— everyone. We have the **‘when’**— as early as possible in the Christian life. Now, thirdly, we see the **‘why.’** Why do we need to be strong men? Scripture tells us to overcome.

3. To _____ ‘Why?’

The truth is that every one of us will either **be overcome or we will overcome.** And I notice something— look at the context in **verse 14**, it says you overcome **the wicked one.** Then in **verse 15** it says **love not the world.** We look at **verse 16— all that is in the world.** In verses **14-16** all three of our enemies are listed in line-item. In **verse 14**, we see a reference to Satan. In **verse 15** the world’s system. In **verse 16**, the old man is our own weak flesh, which interacts with and is influenced by this fallen world. What a lineup! But the big picture is that **you as a strong man in the Lord can be an overcomer of all of that.** Lester Roloff said because of his own sinful flesh the first thing he did every morning **was he would jump in the grave...** in other words **die to self.** And so, we understand we need to be strong men— but how can we be strong men?

4. The _____ Of The _____ ‘How?’

1 John 2:14 “14 ... *I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and **the word of God abideth in you**, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*”

He did not say — the Word of God visits you every now and then— He said it **abides in you**. The only way for the Word of God to be in you is that you have to get in it.

Jeremiah 17:5 “5 *Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.*”

Listen, get in the Word, and God will get in you. I believe that every one of you can be a strong man for the Lord... And that will take place when the Word of God **abides in us. (John 15:4)**