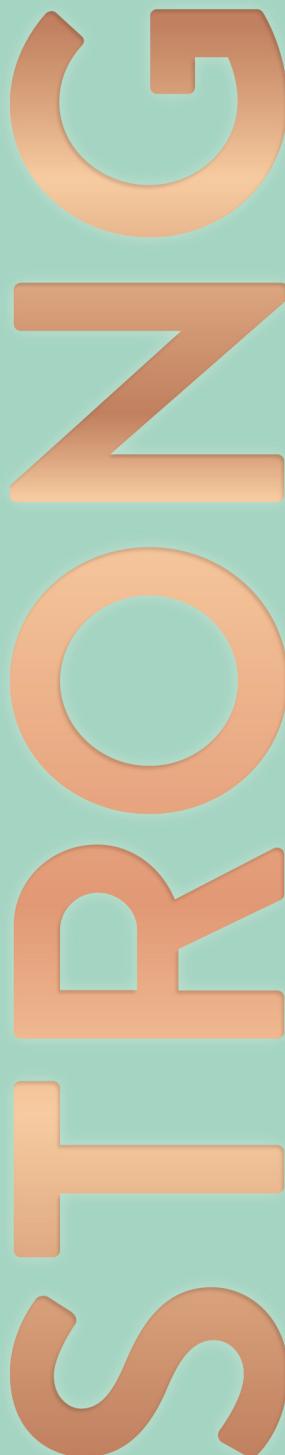


NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLING AUTHOR

L I S A
B E V E R E



D E V O T I O N S

*to Live a Powerful
& Passionate Life*

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1

IT'S OKAY TO BE STRONG

God is strong, and he wants you strong.

EPHESIANS 6:10 MSG

As we begin this journey of becoming strong, let's first settle something in our hearts:

Strong is not wrong.

Too often Christian women are associated with weakness rather than strength. Sometimes religion has taught us to hide rather than to rise. It is true that we are called to be meek, but not weak. Meek is best defined as strength under control. Both Moses and Jesus were meek, but not weak. The meek know their strength comes from God. Esther was meek, but she was no weakling. The meek are also the humble because they understand that their strength comes from a higher power. The meek know how and when to fight, but they are not looking for one.

Strength is a two-edged sword that can be used as a weapon of destruction or a means of release that sets the captives free. It is not unusual that the first captive that requires release is ourselves.

This life requires strength. And as we live longer, life gets harder. Living godly in a godless culture will require much more strength than you or I can muster on our own. Thankfully we are not on our own. We

are going to examine the following verses from Ephesians that outline why each of us must embrace the challenge and become strong. After describing how we interact in relationships, Paul begins Ephesians 6:10–18 with “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” (v. 10).

Relationships require strength. But whenever I try to love or even like someone in my own strength I am doomed to fail. We have a very limited human capacity for the type of strength we need each day. This is why we tap into the strength and power of our Lord. Another version simply says it this way, “God is strong, and he wants you strong” (MSG).

God knows we are not strong so He makes us strong. David tapped into this source of strength when he was a worshipping shepherd. Our God is almighty to make us mighty. Our Father is all-powerful to give His daughters power. God has a plan for your life and the devil has a scheme. His scheme is to knock you out of God’s plan. I must warn you the devil will not fight fairly. The moment you became a daughter of God, you were marked by God’s Holy Spirit and noted by the enemy. Before your rebirth you were his slave, and now you are a target. But once we are acquainted with our source of true strength, it’s time to armor up. “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes” (Ephesians 6:11).

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You that You are strong and You want me strong too. I will armor up to stand in Your plan.

I Am Strong
BECAUSE GOD IS MY SOURCE OF STRENGTH.

2

CONFIDENT IN CHRIST

The LORD's justice will dwell in the desert, his righteousness live in the fertile field. The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.

ISAIAH 32:16–17

When you think of an image of a confident woman, what do you imagine? In magazines, in shops, and almost every time we look at a screen, we see the world's idea of a confident woman—turning heads with her control-assured smile and impeccable style. It's no coincidence that this confidence is often for sale, in the form of a beauty or lifestyle product that will take us from a less desirable “before” to a fabulous “after.” But in the long run, looking for affirmation from success or attractiveness is an empty pursuit. How many likes do we need on a photo or how many comments from strangers will it take for us to finally say, “It is enough . . . I am whole”? I promise you a million a day would never be enough to fill us.

If we trust in popularity or beauty, we'll constantly look to others to affirm our value and desirability. Our self-worth will be repeatedly jeopardized and threatened by other women, and our confidence will be fleeting. But there is another way. We have a Prince who is always willing to make beautiful the women who come to Him.

The confidence He gives us reaches deeper than we even know how to let anyone touch. It's more than just the window dressing or filter or a new accessory. It is the deep, warming glow that comes from the knowledge that we are loved and known deeply. When a woman is loved like this . . . it is seen. Christ Jesus has blessed us with His favor. It is time to allow His love to be more than enough and turn from looking elsewhere for fulfillment.

It's time to take a look at the "before and after" of our souls. It's time to truly appreciate what Christ has done and build our confidence upon it. The love He provides never fades. He longs to tenderly nurture each of us so we can blossom in His love.

*Lord, thank You for renewing, cleansing, and
remaking me daily into the woman You envision.*

I have confidence in Your saving grace.

— I Am Strong —
BECAUSE JESUS HAS GIVEN ME A TRUE
SOURCE OF CONFIDENCE.

3

NOT ALONE

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

Though I may never see your face or have the honor of knowing your name, I know we are not that different and in the course of life we will face many of the same challenges. Corinthians promises us that any problem we will face is not uniquely ours. We are not alone in our trials or victories. But Satan, the enemy of our souls, loves to isolate and accuse each of us as though we were. He whispers lies, “You are the only one who struggles with this. No one else is as bad as you!” I know you’ve heard some form of this because I, too, have heard this lie.

God does not play favorites when it comes to His promises and to His Word. He receives everyone who comes before Him with a humble and obedient heart. This is not true for the arrogant and self-righteous who imagine they have it all figured out. He hears us best when we come spent and tired of trying to do it on our own. God lifts the weary and broken and invites them: “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you” (James 1:5).

There are far too many precious women who feel alone and isolated. It is time we realized that just as we are united in our struggles, we can be united in our strength. Perhaps you have felt isolated and accused. These are lies. You are not alone. Your Lord is your redeemer rather than your accuser.

This is one of the many reasons why community is so important. When we connect with other people who have already gone through the struggle that we are presently in, we are encouraged to have faith. We step out in faith and dare to believe that just as God was faithful to them, He will be faithful to us. Allow me to assure you:

God is not angry with you.

He is not your accuser.

He is more than willing to help.

And you are not alone.

Father, I praise You that I am not alone or accused by You. Thank You for welcoming me into Your healing presence. As I am healed, I will share my journey so that others will be encouraged as well.

I Am Strong

BECAUSE I AM NOT ALONE. MY LORD IS
MY REDEEMER, NOT MY ACCUSER.