

Strengthened By God's Word

"My soul melts from heaviness; Strengthen me according to Your word."

Psalm 119:28



Number 9 in the series "The Joy of Obeying God's Word"

Over the years there have been a lot of tests, trials, and suffering in my life. As a believer I have always found my strength in the Lord and His Word. Right now I am in the midst of trials. Some of them are with my health, trying to get the right diagnosis and treatment. One thing I am fully assured of is that Jesus has always been faithful—He has all the answers, and He will not fail me! I know that many of you are in painful situations right now. Some of your problems have been going on for a long time with no end in sight. Some of them may have just happened, and you do not know what to do or where to turn for help.

Beloved, I would like to share with you what has helped me through past sufferings and what is helping me right now. It is my close, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, God's amazing grace, and the strength that I get from God's Word daily. As I travel in ministry in the United States and internationally, I meet so many hurting people. Many of them are utterly overwhelmed by the heaviness of their situations. I get a lot of opportunity to share how God's Word strengthens us.

2 Corinthians 12:9 reads, *"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."* Beloved, I have always found God's grace to be sufficient for every test and trial in my life. In the countless times I have cried to the Lord in my weakness, He has been faithful to give me His strength. He has given me His power for every situation I have had to encounter.

Isaiah 41:10 reads, *"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."* Look at the wonderful promises the Lord gives us here. We do not have to be afraid. We are not in this battle alone, and He is with us. We do not need to be overwhelmed and dismayed. He is on our side. Whatever we are going through, He promises to strengthen us. Oh beloved, I have seen Him do this over and over in my life. He promises to help us. He promises to uphold us by His hand.

Over the years I have gone through deaths of family members when my unsaved nephew committed suicide and when my four-year-old niece was brutally murdered; two church splits; an accident that almost killed me and resulted in years of constant pain, therapy, and surgery; major health problems in my husband and myself; and that is just to name a few. My Jesus has faithfully strengthened me through His Word.

Beloved, you can trust Him—He will not fail you! I do not know all that you are going through right now, but I can assure you that the same God who has been unfailing in my life wants to do the same for you. Unbeliever, can I encourage you? Surrender your life to Jesus today. He alone can save your soul and help you.

— Janice McBride

All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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