

Sunday January 14, 2007 Strengthening Your Inner Man

Ephesians 3:14-16

Strengthened with might (Greek dunamis=power) by His Spirit in the inner man

While we know that there are several purposes of the local church/ministry - one of the primary objectives of all that we do as a church/ministry is to strengthen people spiritually. If the ministry we do – the preaching, the worship, meetings, cell groups, etc – do not result in <u>people being strengthened in their inner man</u> – then our ministry is really not being effective. We are doing ministry – without achieving one of our primary objectives!

Two questions:

Why do I need to be strengthened in my inner man? Why have a strong inner man? How can I strengthen my inner man? How do I do this?

Why?

- 1. To develop the whole man 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- 2. To overcome the world, the flesh and the devil Ephesians 6:10,11 1 John 2:14
- 3. To represent Christ completely and accurately Ephesians 3:19; 4:13,15
- 4. To carry greater responsibility. People of strength carry greater responsibility in the Kingdom.
- 5. To do exploits Daniel 11:32(b) Ephesians 3:20

How?

- 1. The Word 1 Peter 2:2 Matthew 4:4 1 John 2:14
- 2. Prayer, especially praying in the Spirit Isaiah 40:30,31 Psalm 27:14

Wait = to bind together

Ephesians 3:16 My inner man is strengthened as I receive power from the Holy Spirit 1 Corinthians 14:2,4, Jude 1:20 Isaiah 28:11,12

3 Fasting

Must be combined with prayer and meditation

Helps keep the flesh down; Helps eliminate unbelief; Helps get rid of pride; etc.

Fasting empowers you to overcome temptation (Matthew 4:1-3)

Fasting results in you becoming strong, fruitful and flourishing (Isaiah 58:11)

- 4. Do the Word work out James 1:21 Fellowship with believers Hebrews 10:25
- 5. Remove hindrances things that cripple inner strength

James 1:20 Mark 4:19 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

YOU NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. We're here to help, but you must do your part to strengthen yourself in your inner man!



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