

GAINING STRENGTH
Part 2: What Real Strength Looks Like

REAL STRENGTH

- A. The world is somewhat confused
 - 1. Bad boys vs. Dad-bods
 - 2. Hollywood - overpowering or stoic
 - 3. Christians are often portrayed as weak
- B. Our image of real strength is in Christ **(1 Corinthians 16:13-14 NKJV)**
 - 1. Paul writing to all believers, not just men
 - 2. Paul used military terms - watch, stand fast
 - 3. Love is not a contradiction to strength

A WEAK KING (1 Kings 21:1-7 NKJV)

- A. Ahab was fixated on what he did not have
 - 1. He already had a palace and vineyards
 - 2. He wanted Naboth to give up his land
- B. Ahab gave into a serious pity party
 - 1. His reaction to not getting what he wanted
 - 2. Nothing strong about going to bed and not eating
 - 3. He got attention from the wrong source - produced a bad outcome
- C. Ahab forgot his role as king
 - 1. Kings were to fear God and observe God's ways
 - 2. He was to serve and bless the people under his authority

WHAT DEVELOPING REAL STRENGTH LOOKS LIKE

- A. Real strength is grateful **(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV)**
 - 1. Focus on what we have - not what we don't have
 - 2. There will always be a gap
 - 3. Jesus gave thanks for the little before He fed the many
- B. Real strength does not give in to self-pity
 - 1. It may feel good - a temporary thing
 - 2. Too much self-pity and people pull away
 - 3. Self-pity takes God out of the situation **(Joshua 1:9 NKJV)**
 - 4. Rejoicing - the choice that drives away self-pity
- C. Real strength embraces a bigger role **(Romans 15:1-3 NIV)**
 - 1. Selfish takes no strength
 - 2. We are called to be a blessing
 - 3. Real strength is being like Christ