



LESSON TEN: ***The Strength of a Christian***

Sunday AM Sermon by Ray Reynolds (9/25/11)
GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Text: I Peter 5:8-14

Introduction: We are currently studying through the book of I Peter. His theme is the encouragement of Christians in suffering. Rome was just starting to persecute the Christians, and Peter in his wisdom chose to prepare them for this spiritual battle. He wants to address some spiritual issues, provide an explanation for the “fiery trial” (**I Peter 4:12**), and lift up the community of believers. Peter views the suffering of Christians through the agonies of Jesus, and recognizes the divine purpose of Christian suffering in light of the atonement of Christ. I believe he wanted Christians to establish an unstoppable faith. Specifically, we will be looking at the strength of a Christian in our lesson today. Let's study together

Discussion:

I. Strength Comes Through Our Christian Family (5:8-9)

- A. Strong Christians must be self-controlled.
- B. Strong Christians must be cautious.
- C. Strong Christians must not waver.
- D. Strong Christians must not give up.

II. Strength Comes Through Our Caring Father (5:10-11)

- A. Christians are assured that God is watching.
- B. Christians are assured that God is gracious.
- C. Christians are assured that God is calling.
- D. Christians are assured that God is powerful.

III. Strength Comes Through Our Church Fellowship (5:12-14)

- A. Christians should encourage each other.
- B. Christians should stand with each other.
- C. Christians should greet each other.
- D. Christians should love each other.

Conclusion: Every Christian should have an unstoppable faith. You can run us over. You can hurt us. You can even kill us. But, you will NOT stop us. We are Jesus strong! We are filled with the Spirit of God! And, we have a hope that will keep us motivated to move forward. How's your faith? Have you committed your life to Christ?

WORD OF THE DAY = "STRENGTH"