

# STRONG IN THE LORD

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**GREETINGS:** It is a great blessing for me to preach the Gospel of God's grace to you. Thank you for allowing me to serve you with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**PRAYER:** Father, I want to thank You that we can gather around Your Good News, the Gospel of Grace, the fact that Jesus Christ is the One that influences this world with His life. Thank You that we can be at a place where we are experiencing who and what You are, where we can have peace that is greater than understanding, life that is greater than what this world can offer and righteousness that is exercised from You towards us. Thank You for that, Lord. Holy Spirit, thank You that You empower me in such a way that I can just preach the message of the Resurrection powerfully today, encouraging Your people all over the world. Amen and amen

**MESSAGE:** Today we are going to talk about the armor of God. We are going to talk about what we would have traditionally called, Spiritual Warfare. We are going to talk about what Paul had in mind when he wrote Ephesians 6.

I'm supposed to preach from Romans chapter 10 today but I was just thinking that in the light of what is going on in the world and what I see in people's lives, that a message on how Paul was saying that the Jews had messed up, that they are basically not being used anymore as the people whom God is speaking, is not going to be very relevant to where people are today. We will definitely continue with Romans chapter 10 after we have been through this or as the Lord puts upon my heart to do. As I read passages, I want to see it in the light of its original context and also bring it at a place where it can be applicable for today. I simply don't know how to make it applicable for today. I do understand the context but I don't know how to make it applicable for today right now in the situation where a lot of the people at church are at the moment. So, I thought let us go to Ephesians chapter 6 as many people are going through difficult times and as people are wondering what's going on in this world, I think this is a very applicable passage and then it can encourage us greatly.

I'm going to read from Ephesians 6 and teach that the spiritual war that we are in is simply all about seeing Jesus as Lord. That is what it is all about. There are so many things that show the contrary. There is so many things that want to point out that Jesus is not Lord when we look at the broken world that we are in. Corrupt things going on... corrupt news, corrupt politicians, people losing their businesses, people suffering, people are in sickness, people not having food... You might think, "Is Jesus truly Lord?" We might look at our own lives and say, "Is Jesus truly Lord?" From this passage I am going to show you that the battle that there is is to continue to see Jesus as Lord and to be empowered from that truth..

***Ephesians 6:10 Finally***, (Paul also said, “finally” in verse 3. He was a typical preacher. You know when I say, “Well, I’m ending off or ” “finally, I’m ending off”, it seems to me it is just the way Paul suffered the same thing.), ***Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.***

That is a very powerful passage right there, and we quickly read over it. We say, ***Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*** And then we head towards the armor and say,

***11 Put on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.***

***12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.***

Then we just see the globe and then around the globe we see the devils and the darkness coming in. Then we think of the demons and the devils and then we just take the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand in the evil day.

***13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.***

***14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;***

***15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;***

We go through all of this and I remember when I was in Bible School, I would get dressed every morning in the armor of God. I got that from people teaching in mega churches telling us that we need to get dressed in the armor of God. Now people say that they physically put it on. It’s like I’m getting in the breastplate of righteousness and, all those kinds of things. Maybe you weren’t so radical in doing that kind of a thing, but I did. We look back at some of the things we have done and we think that is ridiculous, but there was something very true in that. There was a true seeking God. There was a truth inside that and the Bible says, “He who seeks, finds!” Glory to God! So many times, you can look back at some of the things that you have done and you feel a bit ashamed about that. Don’t be! The fact that you now know the truth shows that when you were there, you were seeking. We’re not ashamed of the scenery that we walked past as we were on our way to the fullness of the glory of God. God leads people. He takes us out of things and brings us to life. So, don’t be ashamed. Sometimes we can have a good laugh about that but, that’s it.

I remember that this passage was all about, “Be strong in the Lord, the power of His might, and now there is a battle. There are some spiritual forces that attack and then there are the armor of God and we must be in the truth, speak the truth, we must live righteous. We must be willing to preach the gospel, having the feet shod with the preparation of the gospel. We must have faith, meaning I believe for that car and that breakthrough and that healing and the helmet of salvation meaning that I must just know that I am saved.

Then we took the Bible, the Word of God as a sword, and we quote the verses. It is something in these days when I see people refer to the Word of God, and they lift up the Bible, it is just like a cringing thing inside me because if we start to realize that the Apostle Paul preached the Word of God and he had no documentation with him. Paul didn't walk around with scrolls. He didn't walk around with the Torah. Those were in synagogues. Copies were made and put in synagogues. In Paul's time, you couldn't go home and read a bit of Bible. Neither were the scrolls, the Torah, in the hands of the early church. They didn't have anything to read... nothing! Then Paul would preach to them and say, "When I came to you and spoke the Word of God to you", he was not referring to a document. He was referring to a message. That is it!

So many times, we think we have the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, and we think of the Bible. It's not that I want to downplay the Bible. I absolutely believe that every verse in the Bible is an inspired book. Every writer, everything we have there, was inspired of God and it carries a message. But as we come into times like what we have today, we need to realize that when we look at the armor of God, what was Paul communicating? I think I may be teaching on this in the next two Sundays.

I just want to get into verse 10. I am going to explain the context of spiritual warfare and I am going to explain what it is when the Bible talks about being strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. The first thing that I want to say is, if you go and look at passages like in 1Thessalonians 5:8, you will see that when Paul mentions the fruit of the Spirit there, he talks about the breastplate of faith. But we see here that it is the breastplate of righteousness. So, I don't think Paul was all mixed up with the breastplate of righteousness. You can't now say that it is the breastplate of faith. If you go and look at Isaiah 59:17, it talks about the very same armor. It talks about the breastplate of righteousness there but I think it talks about other garments and other things. It is a concept that is being portrayed and the concept is simply to believe the truth and not have your life based on other ideologies. That is all that this is about.

The battlefield is in the mind. The battlefield is in the belief. We already find that in Adam and Eve, the battlefield was to base your life on what you do... your own works. You find life from yourself.

If a person becomes a New Ager, and you start to meditate and through meditation and positive things, thinking you want to draw the positive to yourself, the only conclusion that you are going to come to is that it doesn't work! It doesn't really work. It doesn't have that effect that you thought it is going to have because you will not be able to meditate as you think you should. There is going to be a shortcoming and that shortcoming is going to become bigger and bigger in your mind. Then you can just try to go up a higher notch in your commitment and try again. But it is just a law... something you do again and again, never giving true life. Now the reason that I am saying that is that, at the end of the day, there is just one battlefield. It's either works or grace. Or, we can put it this way: It is either you are going to bring life to yourself or you are going to allow God to fulfill what He's promised you, which is life. That is all! That is the whole thing. That's what it's all about!

Paul comes and he simply just likens this to a war. The reason why he likens this to a war is because in those times there were battles and rumors of wars and all those kinds of things. This was also him saying. "Let's not get involved in wars. We are ready to have the Gospel of Peace. We don't want wars. We want peace. We want the life of God to bring forth life in us."

Now there are many ideologies in the world that says, "Man, God is going to give us power to make war... war against this country... war against that country." I just want to say this: I have not seen a war that has ever been successful. The only war that Paul mentions here is, and I think this is what he tries to get his people to start to believe: Let us not have our mind and our hope in taking up armor and we now are going to fight. Let us not have our hope in that. Let us have our hope in Jesus!

Now, I want to just say something and make it clear. There might be people that are now hearing this and you are in the army. I am not saying that you should leave the army. I am not saying that you should not be in the army. I'm not saying that if your country sends you to go and make a war somewhere, that you are not allowed to do that. That is not the argument. That is not the debate. The debate would be this: If you are a soldier and you go and make a war and you go to another country and you fight the battle there because some people want to invade your country, or whatever the reason would be, and you have to do what you need to do. But, never think that you are going to have life and that salvation comes by winning that war. It cannot bring salvation. It's just going to be a temporal thing maybe to get certain people, that want to harm a country, out of the way. But that is not where life is. Life is in Jesus. So, I can put it this way: Let every soldier say, "Jesus is the Lord!" Let every soldier just say, "The true war is the battle for the mind where I need to believe in Jesus as the Lord, the One who truly gives life." Amen

***Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.***

What is Paul saying when he is saying, "Be strong in the Lord." He is saying, "Be strong in the fact that Jesus is the Lord!"

I want to read to you what that is in the Greek: It says, "Be strong in the Lord, or, "Be strengthened BY the Lord. Have your strength increased. Be strengthened by the Lord." We have thought be strong in the Lord as in, "I am going to be strong in my Christianity!" No, Paul is basically coming and he's seeing that people are going through difficult times and what he is saying is, "Be strengthened by the Lord!" It is useless to tell a weak person to be strong in the Lord from the perspective of, "Come on! Pull up your socks! Be a good Christian now!" No!

You might be going through this and you might feel discouraged. You know, I speak to people every day. People send me many, many, messages every day by Facebook and I find people are confused. Some people feel neglected. Other people feel disheartened. Other people feel that the government has let them down.

Other people don't know what to do, don't know what is going to happen in the future because it seems like everybody is lying. The news media is lying to us. The government is lying to us. The doctors are lying to us. The experts can't get their testimonies to agree. We don't know what to believe!

Listen... the Bible says, and this has been true all the time, that grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. So, what I am preaching to you today is real news. This is the real news. You can believe this: Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ!

Back then they also had people that would report on what Caesar has done and they also had political systems. They also had a kind of democracy going around in Rome and all those things. If they had that then, and "Truth came by Jesus Christ", that means there was no truth. The truth that God was saying came into manifestation. The truth about man, the truth about every political ideology and everything, came into manifestation when the light started to shine which is Jesus and when He was raised from the dead.

So, I want to share from my own life. When I take this passage and it says, "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, it says, "Be strong in the fact that Jesus is the Lord of this world." We know that the Bible does talk about the god of this world and then he talks about the world system and that there is a god and a ruler of that world system. But I want to say that Jesus is the Lord of this earth and everything here! He is the Lord! Then inside Him being Lord, like you would find the country and you'll find that there is a president but there will also be a group or a system that is against the president. It doesn't make that he's not even their president and president over them. They just have their own system going and that is what the Bible talks about there.

So, when I look at this, I say, this is what strengthens me, "I'm strong in the fact that Jesus is the president of South Africa." When we would take the language used here, when Paul was saying, "Jesus is Lord and Messiah and King!", he was basically saying that Caesar is not. He preached this, the influence of the lordship of God, into the political level. His hope was not in who the next Caesar would be... neither in what the Caesar does or has done. The only advice he gave to the churches is, "These people were the sword. Don't go and mess with them." I think they had some Christians doing that saying, "Well, Jesus is Lord. Caesar and his armies are not so we are mocking them. We don't care about them and if they say to walk on this side of the road, we are not going to do that because Jesus is our King!" Then they got locked up. So, I think that Paul was advising them saying, "Listen, yes, those authorities are there. They are there for safety and protection and those kinds of things. Don't go and look for trouble with a man that has the sword. He bears that sword for a reason. And there are certain authorities that are also under the jurisdiction of God. Don't look for trouble with those people." But he was not saying that the rulership of that time is the rulership over the people. Jesus remains Lord!"

So, what helps me today is if I know that Jesus is physical and this earth is physical and that He is the Lord of this world, right now Lord over me, and I'm under His government and under His rule, He cannot be impeached. This is not a democracy where we can now vote Him in or out. He lives forever. He has no beginning of days nor end of life. He is the Lord. He is physical. He is a physical man. The fact that He is not manifested now as a physical man doesn't matter. He is more physical than what you and I am. We can still lose our physicality. We can still decay into dust but Jesus, the man Jesus, is so physical, that He can never change His form. He can never go to non-physical. He was raised from the dead. His physicality is of such a high order that maybe we don't realize it in our lower form of physicality right now. He shall manifest in this world. His glory shall fall on every person and the fullness of His life shall be in everyone. He is not a ruler that governs for His own benefit. He loves others and He has come and He has laid down His life for His friends and He brings life to us.

So, if I am strong in the Lord, I am strong, not in the fact that I am now going to be a strong Christian and I'm going to bind the devil when I see trouble and I am going to claim certain things. No! I am just strong in the fact that I am thinking of and knowing Jesus is the Lord! When I define Lord there, I like to use the word, president. Jesus is the President!

Yes, but did you know what Cyril Ramaphosa said now? Have you heard what Donald Trump said again?" Well, I really don't care what they say. They can say whatever they want and maybe that can influence a little bit on if we stay at home or not for a period of time. But that has no bearing on my freedom for I have been liberated and set free from sin and death! You see, the moment we make Jesus Lord, something happens to our mind. There are certain thought patterns that we cannot think anymore. It is out of our mind and certain paths in our brain have opened up and God has building those neuron paths. We are starting to think and act in certain ways when we start to believe that Jesus is Lord. Like in South Africa, we are free.

Freedom is defined as I am free to do whatever I want. I'm free to marry whoever I want. I am free to do all those things and the Jews also thought that they were free. In a certain degree they were free because in that time many religions were forced by Rome to pay homage to Caesar and honor him as God... but not the Jews. There was a time that was also enforced on them but when the Caesars came, under the Greek rulership under the Hellenization, they took the temple and dishonored it. Then they put idols into it and there was idol worship taking place in the temple by the Greeks. But when the Romans came. they took over. They honored the Jews and basically said, "Well, we are giving them some special favor here." They were kind of free to a certain degree. When they came to Jesus they said, "We are not in bondage to any man." Jesus said, "Listen, you will know the truth and the truth shall set you free!" They said, "We are not in bondage to any man!" Then Jesus said, "He who is bound to sin is a slave of sin." He said, "You are a slave. You are in bondage!" And now we find a new definition of freedom... a definition of freedom which cannot be defined in democracy... a higher freedom when we realized that Jesus is Lord! When we realize that Jesus is Lord, we don't need democracy to be free! We can be free even if we are stuck in North Korea.

It is amazing for me to see how many people from Saudi Arabia download my courses on Facebook. How many people in China download these things. There are so many downloading this, watching this, where absolute Islam states where it is not Christians there. They are downloading a lot of my messages. I am amazed to see the freedom that God brings! So, those people that are even in North Korea, will you ever be able to say that you are free? Can North Korea ever be free or should God first create democracy in order for the North Korean to be free? Or can Jesus set the man free doesn't matter if he's under a dictatorship?

You see, the moment you say that Jesus is Lord, the things of this world cannot bind you anymore! You might say, "Bertie, I don't know. That sounds like mind over matter!" You see, when we start to believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ and we believe that He is a physical man and that He is truly physically the Lord, this is not mind over matter anymore. It's not, "I'm too heavenly minded that I am no earthly good." All of a sudden, the goodness of heaven has come to earth. The goodness of heaven has come to earth and the kingdom of God is now in this world.

The Lord says clearly, "This is how you should pray: Our God, our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Then Jesus said, "The kingdom of God has now come nigh to you!" So, here is the kingdom of God. That prayer is being fulfilled. We are saying: "Give us this day our daily bread." What does that mean? The manna that falls from heaven every day is what we take. The rulership of Jesus is our food. The fact that we eat His body means that we live off the fact that Jesus was bodily raised from the dead and that He is truly the Lord over my life. He is the One that laid down His life. He is the president over my life and His job is, by the Father, to serve me with eternal life! That is John chapter 6. Jesus said, No one can come to Me unless it is given Him by the Father as the Scripture says, "Everyone shall be taught of the Father. He who hears and obeys comes to Me and the job that I have, with them is that I will give them eternal life in the last day."

So, what is Jesus' job? Jesus' job is to set you free... free from sin, free from death, and give you eternal life. That is why Jesus poured out of His Spirit on all flesh. It is Jesus' job to bring forth freedom in your life. So, if this becomes our reality, we will find that we are not so much troubled by things of lower order. You see, we have made Jesus too spiritual! We've made Jesus too immaterial, too non-physical. We've made Jesus a ghost. Jesus is not a ghost. He is a man. He is a human and He says, "I will never leave you!" Jesus has never left us! He has gone into an exaltation. Where is He? Jesus is living with us here. He is in a different dimension or a higher level of physicality which we cannot perceive or measure by our science but, He is with us! And He shall manifest Himself and glorify us all! That is the true rulership and we should believe on that. That is the true news! That is the real news. All other news, doesn't matter how true it is in connection with the realities of this world, is fake news! It's not true news. It's not real news. The real, good, news is that Jesus was raised from the dead.

It says: "Be strengthened by the fact that He is Lord and let us be strengthened in the power of His might." What does he mean when he talks about the power of His might?

This is Paul's prayer: *Ephesians 1:*

***16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;***

***17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him***

***18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,***

***19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,***

***20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,***

Does it look as if Paul is threatened by what Caesar's latest message was? Paul doesn't even write about Caesar! He doesn't care about Caesar. He doesn't care about the political situation of his time. He knows Jesus is Lord and relevant for his day, as pertaining to God's truth, he says, "Jesus is Lord!" But, Bertie, that's not relevant! "It's **most** relevant! It's not relevant if you think Jesus is a ghost. He's not a ghost! He is the physical King of this world! That is what He is and it can never change. It will never change. Glory to God!

***Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.***

Let us be strengthened by the fact that He is Lord and let us be strengthened by the power (dunamis) of His might which is the force that raised Jesus from the dead. Let us, rather, be strong in the fact that Jesus is conquering death in this world by the power of the Resurrection.

So, Church, I want to encourage you. Don't be overtaken by the newsman. It is fake news! I don't care who the political leader is. If your President doesn't come up and say, "I just wanted to come and give you the real news today that this government is not truly the government of this country. Jesus Christ is a physical man and the true government is His and we are under His power. He cannot be impeached! He is the true President and this government is simply here for a little bit of law and order. But, the government, the true government, is Jesus! I want all of you in my country to know that this government is just a "Mickey Mouse" small, little, thing. It is not the true government of God! Jesus is the true President!" Unless he says that, he is not busy with real news. He's busy with man-made systems and things! Church, I'm saying this from the depth of my heart. As much as what your business' finances cannot define you, your Constitution of your country cannot define you! It cannot! Our Constitution needs us to live. Our Constitution cannot exist out of, "If we don't give our life to it! We need to give our lives to our Constitutions so that our constitutions can stay in power. That means that if mortals need to help something else to stay in power, it is more mortal than us. It cannot survive.



So why will we put our trust and our safety in our hope. Why would we say, "God, protect this dying thing so that we can be alive." No, we are of a higher order. We are standing under the order of Jesus who is according to the order of an endless life which is the order of Melchizedek according to Hebrews chapter 7.

I was speaking to somebody the other day and I said to him, "Well-being defined to me is immortality." That is true well-being for me and God doesn't need my life to be alive. Jesus doesn't need my life to be alive. The Word of God doesn't need me to exist. It exists and has life and offers it to me. No system of this world can have my life. I am not going to give my life to a system of this world in the hope of peace and joy and security! I will rather say, "I can give my life and make my life available for a life that can make me happy, even if I'm under a dictatorship, that can set me free doesn't matter how I'm bound... where freedom can be true freedom. What government can set you free from sin! There is none! What our government offer us is not what we need. We need eternal life. We need Jesus. We need freedom from bondage of sin and death. That is what we need. That is what I believe Paul is busy with here.

When Paul went around and said, "I want to just say to you that Jesus is Lord", he doesn't say it as we say it today in the hope that maybe we can have some money or something here or there. No, Jesus was Lord for Paul even when he wrote Ephesians from jail. He was bound, and in that bondage, he knew that he can never be bound. You couldn't set Paul more free than what he was when he was right there bound in jail. In what we call, bondage, we are still reading today the freedom and the liberality that he had.

2Corinthians 8: Paul comes and he says, "I want to testify about the grace of God, that was on the poor churches in Macedonia, how they, above their own ability, in the midst of great poverty, lived according to their liberality." That is difficult words of saying that these people were so free that while they were poor, they could be generous. Why? Because they were strong in the power of God's might to set you free even if this government couldn't set you free. This government is promising people money and security and safety and this and that. They are fighting from the morning to evening. There is no hope in them... nothing! It's not worth the time we spent on it. It's not worth the time watching that news. It's not worth the time.

I can promise you now, and you can say that it sounds like an old Pentecostal with these laws: Think whatever you like but I can tell you now that if you switch off the news for one month and you meditate upon the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you'll be a new man! Everything will change for you. You will have more peace than what you have ever had in all your life! I can promise you that. I am not saying that you must go and do that but the point I am trying to make is what the Apostle Paul has made. He says clearly, in other letters, "Meditate on whatsoever is good and noble and of good report. Meditate on these things." That is what he is saying.

**Ephesians 6:**

**10 Finally, my brethren, be strong** (strengthened by the fact that Jesus is the Lord) **in the Lord, and in the power of his might** (the Resurrection).

**11 Put on the whole armor of God** (Put on the whole mentality of God. Glory to God!), **that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

**2Corinthians 10:**

**3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:**

**4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)**

**5 Casting down imaginations** (ideologies) **and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

What he is saying is, the weapons of our warfare, the way we go to war, is this way: We have everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, we bring into captivity to the obedience of Christ. What was the obedience of Christ? He obeyed unto death. Then He was raised from the dead, conquered all sin and death. So, any thought that wants to come and exalt itself against the fact that Jesus is Lord, the Bible says, "We cast it down." In the Greek, the word, cast down, means to take it off from the cross. So, when will it take something off from the cross? It's when you go and bury it. He was taken off from the cross and He went into the tomb.

So, this casting down of imaginations, the end of every thought and every imagination of man's ability, the end of every governments' rule and their ideologies is vividly portrayed on the cross. It died! It's cursed! It cannot live! It is death! Now take it from there and bury it now!

**5 Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God** What God knows and what we know about God and when He raised Jesus from the dead. You must realize that Paul wrote this while the Caesar worship was growing exponentially in the known world. They were building temples with Caesar worship everywhere. It was outgrowing the Church much faster than the Church but it didn't matter for Paul. He says, "We see their ideologies. We see their methods. We see their hopes and their freedoms." Listen, nobody is good. Let me give you this: They might say, "Bertie, you are crazy today!" I don't want to be taught that I am free when I can fly wherever I want when I want. That is a very low definition of freedom! That is the greatest depression that you can ever find.

Oscar Wild said, "When you are at the end of all the things you are free to do, you come to the saddest point that you can ever have." It is like when you win the Olympic games, you are the best athlete. If you go and speak to those athletes, most of them, after that, are the saddest point in their life."

“Jesus is Lord!” means His definition of freedom is the only one that makes sense, that is true. And no other definition of freedom can ever be of higher ranking than His definition of freedom. We are pulling down strongholds. We are pulling down any definition or anything that is outside of what God knows. God says, “You’ll know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” What is the truth? The truth was, to the Jews, “You are bound by sin but you will know the truth that I will be raised from the dead. I am the Messiah over sin and death and I will give you immortality.” So, the bondage that Jesus gives as a definition of truth.

Paul even writes, “Those of you that are slaves don’t even seek to be free!” Imagine that craziness! Why would he say to a person that’s a slave not to even seek to be free? Paul wrote that! That would be like, under the old apartheid system, saying to the blacks, “Man, don’t even seek freedom from apartheid. Why would you seek that?”

The same Paul says, “When you can be free from slavery, take it!” But what he was saying is, “You can be so occupied with the freedoms of this world, you can be so occupied to be free from human oppression that that becomes your life. But, you and the one oppressing you are both suffering of something called death. You need to be saved from that!” So, rather, seek His kingdom and His rule over your life. Lift your eyes a bit! Glory to God!

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Let us take off these other ideologies from the cross! You can only be happy when you can sit on the beach. That’s a lie! You can only be happy if the government always says everything right. That’s a lie! It’s a lie from the pit of hell! People in North Korea who believe in Jesus are happy. They are gloriously full of joy! Now thank God for the freedoms that we have now. I believe Paul would say to somebody in North Korea, “Don’t even seek freedom but if it is offered to you, take it.” So, he would basically say to him, “If you can move and now live in South Africa or America or Canada or Europe, or somewhere, go and do that. But, don’t let your whole mindset be, “I am only saved if this thing has changed.” Because right there where you are, you can be saved from sin and death. Glory to God! Experience the life of God!

Let’s make it practical for what people are going through today. This means that the voice about us... let’s say you have a business. I think of a lot of people in our churches that run businesses. Your business is losing a lot of money. You know what? As we are strong in the Lord and the power of His might, we will know how to, from that victory, manage our business for the here and now. See certain things for what it is. Adapt a bit according to the wisdom of God. Do what you need to do and you’ll see the life that is in you also reflect in your business. It’s just the way it is. A bit worse than what it is, is when you try and look at things falling apart because of a world where things are up and down and defining your life by that. Don’t do that. Don’t think, “God, should I have done that or should I have done this?” Rather be strong in the Lord. See the Resurrected Jesus. See the glorified Christ. See the power of His might, the power that raised Him from the dead! Have a new definition of freedom. Take that He has already nailed every ideology to the cross.

Man, I don't care about what conspiracy there is. Let's say that all those conspiracies are right. Let's say that they want to do vaccines. Let them. Let's say that they force vaccines on everybody. You don't have a choice. You are going to take it or sit in jail. Let's say that they make it worse... if you don't get vaccine, then you are going to be decapitated. My goodness! Let me tell you something. You can still be happy having the vaccine. We have put our life and all our joy and all our thought and all our energy and we became weak in the strength of a weak people, instead of, "Let us behold the Resurrected Jesus!" Church, that's where true life is!

Father, I want to thank You for the fact that we can come and say, "We are strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. It's not by our works. It's not by our ability. It's by Your grace. It's not by us obeying the laws. Lord, as Christians, we know that it is not by the law, but so quickly the enemy comes and tempts us with other laws ... laws of this world... laws of definitions of happiness and things. But, thank you, Lord, that in the midst of all these things, we find, as some people in North Korea, as some people in China, being oppressed, as some people in Saudi Arabia, that don't have freedom of religion and those kind of things, where we find them overjoyed with the life of God, strong in the Lord, that we, as well, in the Western world, in democracies, can behold Jesus, the Lord, the true Lord.

Thank You, Lord, that we can rest in You! I want everybody to say with me: Jesus is Lord! God is our Father. All authority in heaven and earth is given to Jesus. Therefore, we go and declare it! Amen and amen

**You are safe in the hands of God!** God bless....