

Read: Jeremiah 15:15-21

God Will Give You Strength

Jeremiah 15:20

“I will make you a wall to this people,
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you
but will not overcome you,
for I am with you
to rescue and save you,”
declares the Lord.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Have you ever been to a castle before? There aren't too many around the United States, but there are lots of castles in other parts of the world. If you ever have the chance, make sure you visit one. They are *amazing!* There are huge rooms, fancy furniture, beautiful artwork, and so much more. But maybe one of the coolest parts of a castle is the simplest part—the walls.

Castle walls are *huge*. They are big, solid, and very strong. They had to be though. The walls needed to protect everyone on the inside and keep all the enemies out. The stronger the walls were, the safer everyone would be. Some castles even had an extra wall around the entire property for extra strength and safety.

The prophet Jeremiah was a person who felt very *unsafe*. Sadly, his own people that he preached to also became his enemies. They didn't like Jeremiah, and they definitely didn't like his message from the Lord. This made Jeremiah feel sad, lonely, unsafe, and completely defeated.

God had another message to give though. This time it was for Jeremiah himself. God told Jeremiah to trust in him. God said, “I will make you a wall to this people.” God was going to give strength to Jeremiah to be like a castle wall. He would be strong and courageous and keep on preaching to them. The people would attack against him but wouldn't defeat him. How could this be with so many enemies? “For I am with you to rescue and save you,” God said.

There are so many things that make us feel unsafe in life. There are many mean, wicked, and evil people in the world. Some people commit awful crimes. Some don't like Christians and want to stop us from telling others about Jesus. Then, there are all the temptations and sins that we battle as we fight off the devil.

But don't worry, Christian friends! Jesus has already defeated all of our enemies. The God who *created* this world also came to *save* this world. At the cross, Christ crushed Satan and saved us from sin and death. We are safe with him! Just as God told Jeremiah, so he tells you, "I am with you to rescue you and save you!" That's right, with God on your side, you are a strong and mighty wall that will stand up against every enemy until you are safe forever in heaven!

The questions below are to help families discuss this devotion. The questions are divided by age group as suggestions, but anyone could reflect on any of the questions as they desire.

Questions for Younger Children

- How did Jesus show to us that he is stronger than any of our enemies?
- How does God protect us?

Questions for Elementary Age Children

- How does God make us stronger as Christians?
- When are times today that people might feel defeated and lonely as Christians, kind of like the prophet Jeremiah felt?

Questions for Middle School and Above

- Explain why remembering your baptism can be a source of strength every day.
- Explain why the Lord's Supper can be a regular source of strength for those who commune.

Closing Prayer:

God, give me strength to stand firm in my faith and to be bold in sharing the good news of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: CW 465:1,2 – Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow you.
Destitute, despised, forsaken, You on earth once suffered, too.
Perish ev'ry fond ambition, All I've ever hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heav'n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me; They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me; You are not, like them, untrue.
And since you have smiled upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends may shun me—Show your face, and all is bright.