

weak about Christianity. We believe in kindness. We believe in gentleness. We believe in turning the other cheek when we are attacked, but we believe in standing for the Word of God and in standing true and firm for Him and He wants us to be firm, He wants us to be strong, and so He exhorts: You have heard these wonderful teachings, now, are you just going to sit and meditate on them and think how wonderful they are? That's fine, but that's not all. You've got these exhortations on how to carry on your domestic life the way it should be, but don't stop at that. Be strong, be firm in the truth. Stand for what you should.

But you notice he says, Be strong in the Lord. When we try to stand in our own strength we're like Peter who tried to walk on the water. Jesus said, "Come to me." and he steps out of the boat and he came and he walked along and he stayed on top of the water and then Peter looked at the water and became frightened and realized that he had no strength to stand above the water and he began to sink. He was standing in the strength of the Lord. And we as Christians should be strong. Oh so many times, you will be in a group of people who will take an attitude that is making light of good things, and that is playing down what is righteous, that is perhaps doing things that you dislike and you sort of tend to crawl back into your shell and say nothing and feel inconspicuous, and it is amazing how many times in a situation like that if a person will kindly and graciously and yet firmly speak out, you will find your influence is far above what you ever dreamed it would be. Because the Lord's strength can use one man to put 50 to flight if Lord chooses. He wants us to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. What a peculiar expression: the power of His might. Why not say, In the might of His power? What does it mean? Why not just say, In His power? Well, we have two different Greek words here. We have the word kratos for power, and we have ischos for --- that is kratos is the first and ischos is the second. And ischus is inherent power. We think of the power, the strength that God has that is there. But then the kratos is the outpouring of that power. It is the making it available for our defense. So in the power of His might doesn't convey the idea in the English. But I don't know just how we can convey it in English three words, but in the Greek it conveys the idea that God wants us to get our power from Him, from that power that is inherent in Him. He wants to let flow into us and through us that power which is the only way by which we can be strong. And then he