

*Strengthen  
My Spirit*

© 2011 by Barbour Publishing, Inc.

Print ISBN 978-1-61626-969-2

eBook Editions:

Adobe Digital Edition (.epub) 978-1-62029-454-3

Kindle and MobiPocket Edition (.prc) 978-1-62029-453-6

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted for commercial purposes, except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without written permission of the publisher.

Churches and other noncommercial interests may reproduce portions of this book without the express written permission of Barbour Publishing, provided that the text does not exceed 500 words and that the text is not material quoted from another publisher. When reproducing text from this book, include the following credit line: "From *Strengthen My Spirit*, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission."

Scripture quotations marked KJV are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NASB are taken from the New American Standard Bible, © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Italics have been added for emphasis in many scripture passages at the beginning of readings.

Published by Barbour Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 719, Uhrichsville, Ohio 44683,  
[www.barbourbooks.com](http://www.barbourbooks.com)

*Our mission is to publish and distribute inspirational products offering exceptional value and biblical encouragement to the masses.*



Printed in the United States of America.

# *Strengthen My Spirit*

CHARLES  
SPURGEON



BARBOUR  
PUBLISHING



# INTRODUCTION

Charles Spurgeon is considered the most widely read preacher in history, excluding those of the Bible. Throughout his lifetime, he preached to over ten million people.

This godly pastor was well acquainted with hardship. He endured personal and family illness, as well as the enormous task of leading a church whose congregation faced numerous difficulties. Spurgeon did not merely instruct his listeners to ask God for the power to withstand adversity, however; he was a living testimony of one who relied on God to be his strength.

*Strengthen My Spirit* is a compilation of lightly edited selections from Spurgeon's sermons and writings, preceded by brief passages of scripture. We pray that his words encourage you to deepen your relationship with Christ. You may be experiencing hardships: financial distress, a broken relationship, physical illness. . . . Whatever you are facing, God longs to hear you call out, "Lord, strengthen my spirit."





*I pray that out of his glorious riches  
he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit  
in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell  
in your hearts through faith.*

EPHESIANS 3:16–17 NIV

# NEW HEART

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.”

EZEKIEL 36:26 NIV

“Behold,” says Christ, “I make all things new.” What a wonder it is that a man should ever have a new heart!

You know if a lobster loses its claw in a fight it can get a new claw, and that is thought to be very marvelous. It would be very wonderful if men should be able to grow new arms and new legs, but who ever heard of a creature that grew a new heart?

You may have seen a bough lopped off a tree, and you may have thought that perhaps the tree will sprout again and there will be a new limb, but who ever heard of old trees getting new sap and a new core?

But my Lord and Master, the crucified and exalted Savior, has given new hearts and new cores; He has put the vital substance into man afresh and made new creatures of them. I am glad to notice the tear in your eye when you think on the past, but wipe it away now, and look up to the cross and say—

*Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Your blood was shed for me,  
And that You bid'st me come to You,  
O Lamb, O God, I come.*

“Make me a new creature!” If you have said that from your heart, you are a new creature, dear brother, and we will rejoice together in this regenerating Savior.



# CHRIST'S PRAYER FOR HIS CHILDREN

*I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world,  
but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*

JOHN 17:15 KJV

This prayer of Christ is an ever-precious portion to all true believers, from the fact that each of them has an inalienable interest in it.

Every one of us, beloved, when we listen to the words of Christ should recollect that He is praying for us; that while it is for the great body of His elect He intercedes in this chapter and the one preceding it, yet it is also for each believer in particular that He offers intercession.

However weak we are, however poor, however little our faith, or however small our grace may be, our names are still written on His heart; nor shall we lose our share in Jesus' love.

Oh, poor sinner, do not be doubtful of my Master's power. Do but touch the hem of His garment, and you shall be made whole. Like the poor woman in the crowd, get at it and touch it, and He will surely say unto you, "You are saved." If you will go to Him with this cry,

*I'm a poor sinner and nothing at all,  
And Jesus Christ is my all in all,*

then you will see the blessed reason why Jesus interceded thus:  
"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world."

# NEVER FORSAKEN

And they that *know thy* name will  
put their trust in *thee*: for *thou, LORD,*  
hast not forsaken them that seek *thee*.

PSALM 9:10 KJV

Fellowship with Christ is so honorable a thing that it is worthwhile to suffer, that we may thereby enjoy it. You have sometimes heard me express a desire that I might be in the number of those who shall be alive and remain, and so shall escape death; but a dear friend of mine says he had rather die, in order that he might thus have fellowship with Christ in His sufferings, and the thought finds an echo in my own breast.

To die with Jesus makes death a perfect treasure; to be a follower in the grave with Him makes death a pleasure. Moreover you and I might be taken for cowards, although we may have fellowship with Him in His glory, if we had no scars to prove the sufferings we had passed through and the wounds we had received for His name.

Thus again you see it is for our good to be here; we should not have known fellowship with the Savior if we had not stayed here a little while. I should never have known the Savior's love half as much if I had not been in the storms of affliction.

How sweet it is to learn the Savior's love when nobody else loves us! When friends flee, what a blessed thing it is to see that the Savior does not forsake us but still keeps us and holds us fast and clings to us and will not let us go! Oh, beloved brother and sister, believe that your remaining here on earth is for your eternal benefit.

# A CALL TO WIN SOULS

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,  
and he who wins souls is wise.

PROVERBS 14:30 NKJV

Why is it that saints do not die as soon as they are converted? Because God meant that they should be the means of the salvation of their brethren. You would not surely wish to go out of the world if there were a soul to be saved by you. If I could go to glory before I had converted all the souls allotted to me, I should not be happy. We do not wish to enter heaven until our work is done, for it would make us uneasy if there were one single soul left to be saved by our means.

Tarry then, Christian; there is a sinner to be saved from his sins, a rebel to be turned from the error of his ways, and perhaps that sinner is one of your relatives. Perhaps you are spared in this world because there is a wayward son of yours not yet saved, and God has designed to make you the favored instrument of bringing him to glory. It may be that you are kept here because one of your offspring, by your instrumentality, is yet to be saved. Tarry then for your son's sake. I know how deeply you love him, and for his sake, surely, you are content to be left here a little while, counting it for the best that you may bring in your son to glory with you.

# ENDURING TRIALS FOR GOD'S GLORY

Now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when *Jesus Christ* is revealed.

4 PETER 4:6–7 NIV

A tried saint brings more glory to God than an untried one. I think in my own soul that a believer in a prison reflects more glory on his Master than a believer in paradise, that a child of God in the burning, fiery furnace, whose hair is yet unscorched and upon whom the smell of the fire has not passed, displays more the glory of the Godhead than even he who stands with a crown upon his head, perpetually singing praises before the Father's throne.

Nothing reflects so much honor on a workman as a trial of his work and its endurance of it. So it is with God. It honors Him when His saints preserve their integrity. Peter honored Christ more when he walked on the water than when he stood upon the land. There was no glory given to God by his walking on the solid shore, but there was glory reflected when he walked on the water.

If we could but add more jewels to the crown of Christ by remaining here, why should we wish to be taken out of the world? We should say, "It is blessed to be anywhere where we can glorify Him."

# BLESSED BY GOD

Praise be to the *Lord*, to *God* our *Savior*, who daily  
*bears* our burdens. Our *God* is a *God* who *saves*;  
from the *Sovereign LORD* comes escape from death.

PSALM 68:19-20 NIV

Are any of you inclined to murmur? Do you think God deals harshly with you? Well, you are what you are by His grace. Though you are not what you wish to be, remember you are not what—if strict justice were carried out—you would be. In the poorhouse you might be—few admire that residence. In the prison you might be—God preserves you from the sin that would bring you there. At the grave’s mouth you might be—on the sickbed, on the verge of eternity. God’s holiest saints have not been spared from the grave.

O God, when we think of what we are not because Your grace has kept us from it, we can only say, “You have loaded us with benefits.”

Think of what you are, you Christians. You are God’s children; you are joint heirs with Christ. The “many mansions” are for you; the palms and harps of the glorified are for you. You have a share in all that Christ has and is and shall be. In all the gifts of His ascension, you have a part; in the gifts that come to us through His being seated at the right hand of God, you have your share; and in the glories of the Second Coming, you shall partake.

See how in the present and in the past and in the future, He loads you with benefits.

# PRAISE HIM!

I will praise *Your* name forever and ever.

PSALM 145:2 NKJV

The one occupation of a Christian is to praise his God. Now in order to do this, we must maintain by God's grace a grateful, happy, praiseful frame of mind; and we must endeavor to express that condition of mind by songs of gratitude. Let us make both ends of the day bright with His praise, and throughout the day. We are in a wrong state of mind if we are not in a thankful state of mind. There is something wrong with you if you cannot praise God.

"Oh!" a person says. "Even in trouble?" Yes, in every bitter trouble, too, for Job could say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, and blessed be the name of the Lord."

"But are we never to be sorrowful?" Yes, yet always rejoicing. How can that be? The Lord will teach you! It is a work of grace. Cast down but yet rejoicing in the Lord! He lifts up the light of His countenance upon us, even when heart and flesh are failing us. There is something amiss when our heart does not praise God.

When your heart is glad, praise Him with your lips. Do you work alone? Sing. Perhaps, if you work with others, you cannot; then sing with your heart. Habitually praise Him. All our actions, as well as our thoughts and words, should praise Him who always blesses us. You may stop praising God when He stops having mercy on you—not until then.

# OUR NEVER-CHANGING GOD

“For I am the *LORD*, I do not change;  
therefore you are not consumed.”

MALACHI 3:6 NKJV

What a consolation it is that our God never changes! What He was yesterday, He is today. What we find Him today, we shall find Him forever. Are you struggling against sin? Don't struggle in your own strength: It is God who performs all things for you. Victories over sin are only sham victories unless we overcome through the blood of the Lamb and through the power of divine grace.

May we have what we really think we have—no surface work but deep, inner, spiritual life fashioned in us from God—yes, every good spiritual thing from Him who performs all things for us; and I say, whatever struggles may come, whatever temptations may overwhelm, or whatever thunderclouds may burst over your heads, you shall not be deserted, much less destroyed.

In spiritual things it is God who performs all things for you. Rest in Him then. You cannot work to save your own soul; Christ is the Savior. If He cannot save you, you certainly cannot save yourself. Why do you rest your hopes where hopes never should be rested? Or let me change the question: Why do you fear where you should never have hoped? Instead of fearing that you cannot hold on, fear holding on yourself and never look in that direction again. Let your entire reliance be fixed in Him. Cast the burden of your care on Him who performs all things for you.

# BOASTING IN THE LORD

My soul shall make its boast in the *LORD*;  
the humble shall hear of it and be glad.

PSALM 34:2 NKJV

Boasting is generally annoying. Even those who boast themselves cannot endure the boasting of other people. But there is one kind of boasting that even the humble can bear to hear—in fact, they are glad to hear it. “The humble shall hear thereof and be glad.” That must be boasting in God—a holy glorifying and extolling the Most High with words sought out with care that might magnify His blessed name.

You will never exaggerate when you speak good things of God. It is not possible to do so. Try, dear brethren, and boast in the Lord. There are many poor, trembling, doubting, humble souls who can hardly tell whether they are the Lord’s people or not and are half afraid whether they will be delivered in the hour of trouble, who will become comforted when they hear you boasting. “The humble shall hear thereof and be glad.”

“Why,” says the humble soul, “the God who helped him can help me. He who brought him up through the deep waters and landed him safely can also take me through the river and through the sea and give me final deliverance.”

My soul shall make her boast in the Lord. “The humble shall hear thereof and be glad.”



# NEARER TO GOD

*Get thee up into the high mountain.*

ISAIAH 40:9 KJV

Each believer should be thirsting for God, for the living God, and longing to climb the hill of the Lord and see Him face-to-face. My soul thirsts of the cup that is reserved for those who reach the mountain's brow and bathe their brows in heaven. How pure are the dews of the hills, how fresh is the mountain air, how rich the fare of the dwellers aloft whose windows look into the New Jerusalem!

Many saints are content to live like men in coal mines who see not the sun; they eat dust like the serpent when they might taste the ambrosial meat of angels, they are content to wear the miner's garb when they might put on the king's robes, and tears mar their faces when they might anoint them with celestial oil. Many a believer pines in a dungeon when he might walk on the palace roof and view the goodly land of Lebanon.

Rouse yourself from your low condition! Cast away your sloth, your lethargy, your coldness, or whatever interferes with your chaste and pure love for Christ, your soul's husband. Make Him the source, the center, and the circumference of all your soul's range of delight.

What charms you into such folly as to remain in a pit when you may sit on a throne? Rest no longer satisfied with your dwarfish attainments, but press forward to things more sublime and heavenly. Aspire to a higher, a nobler, a fuller life. Upward to heaven! Nearer to God!

# THE REDEMPTION OF GOD

*I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked,  
and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible.*

JEREMIAH 15:21 KJV

Note the glorious personality of the promise. “I will”—the Lord Jehovah Himself interposes to deliver and redeem His people. He pledges Himself personally to rescue them. His own arm will do it that He may have the glory.

There is not a word said of any effort of our own that may be needed to assist the Lord. Neither our strength nor our weakness is taken into the account, but the lone I, like the sun in the heavens, shines out resplendent in all-sufficiency. Peace, you unbelieving thoughts—be still and know that the Lord reigns.

Nor is there a hint concerning secondary means and causes. The Lord says nothing of friends and helpers: He undertakes the work alone and feels no need of human arms to aid Him. Vain are all our lookings around to companions and relatives; they are broken reeds if we lean upon them—often unwilling when able and unable when they are willing. Since the promise comes alone from God, it would be well to wait only upon Him, and when we do so, our expectation never fails us. In all times of fiery trial, in patience let us possess our souls.

# CONTENTMENT IN GOD

O *fear* the *LORD*, ye *his* saints: for there is no want  
to them that fear *him*. The young lions do lack,  
and suffer hunger: but they that seek the *LORD*  
shall not want any good thing.

PSALM 34:9-10 KJV

They are very strong, those young lions. They are fierce. They are voracious. They are cunning. And yet they do lack and suffer hunger.

And there are many men in this world who are very clever, strong in body, and active in mind. They say that they can take care of themselves, and perhaps they do appear to prosper; but we know that often those who are the most prosperous apparently are the most miserable of men. They are young lions, but they do lack and suffer hunger.

But when a man's soul lives upon God, he may have very little of this world, but he will be perfectly content. He has learned the secret of true happiness. He does not want any good things, for the things that he does not have, he does not wish to have. He brings his mind down to his estate if he cannot bring his estate to his mind.

He is thankful to have a little spending money, but his treasure is above. He likes to have the best things last, and so he is well content, if he has food and raiment, to press on his way to the rest that remains for the people of God. "The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger; but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing."

# BENEVOLENT FORESIGHT

*Thou, O God, hast prepared of  
thy goodness for the poor.*

PSALM 68:10 KJV

God anticipates our needs, and out of the fullness that He has treasured up in Christ Jesus, He provides of His goodness for the poor. You may trust Him for all the necessities that can occur, for He has infallibly foreknown every one of them. God has marked with prescient eye all the requirements of His poor wandering children, and when those needs occur, supplies are ready. It is goodness that He has prepared for the poor in heart, goodness and goodness only. “My grace is sufficient for thee.” “As your days, so shall your strength be.”

Is your heart heavy? God knew it would be; the comfort that your heart wants is treasured in the sweet assurance of the text. You are poor and needy, but He has thought of you and has the exact blessing that you require in store for you. Plead the promise, believe it, and obtain its fulfillment.

Do you feel that you never were so consciously vile as you are now? Behold, the crimson fountain is open still with all its former efficacy, to wash your sin away. Never shall you come into such a position that Christ cannot aid you.

No pinch shall ever arrive in your spiritual affairs in which Jesus Christ shall not be equal to the emergency, for your history has all been foreknown and provided for in Jesus.

# WAIT FOR THE LORD

Therefore will the *LORD* wait,  
that *he* may be gracious unto you.

ISAIAH 30:18 KJV

God often delays in answering prayer. If you have been knocking at the gate of mercy and have received no answer, shall I tell you why the mighty Maker has not opened the door and let you in? Our Father has reasons known only to Himself.

Sometimes it is to show His power and His sovereignty, that men may know that Jehovah has a right to give or to withhold. More frequently the delay is for our profit. Perhaps you are kept waiting in order that your desires may be more fervent. God knows that delay will quicken and increase desire, and that if He keeps you waiting, you will see your necessity more clearly and will seek more earnestly; and that you will prize the mercy all the more for its long tarrying.

There may also be something in you that needs to be removed before the joy of the Lord is given. Perhaps you may be placing some little reliance on yourself instead of trusting entirely to the Lord Jesus.

Your prayers are all filed in heaven; and if not immediately answered, they are certainly not forgotten, but in a little while shall be fulfilled to your delight and satisfaction. Let not despair make you silent, but continue constantly in earnest supplication.

# ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

The *one* who *calls* you is faithful and *he* will do it.

4 THESSALONIANS 5:24 NIV

Heaven is a place where we shall never sin; there will be no tempter to ensnare our feet. There the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. Heaven is the “undefiled inheritance”; it is the land of perfect holiness, and therefore of complete security.

But do not the saints even on earth sometimes taste the joys of blissful security? The doctrine of God's Word is that all who are in union with the Lamb are safe, that all the righteous shall hold on their way, that those who have committed their souls to the keeping of Christ shall find Him a faithful and immutable preserver.

Sustained by such a doctrine we can enjoy security even on earth; not that high and glorious security that renders us free from every slip, but that holy security that arises from the sure promise of Jesus that none who believe in Him shall ever perish but shall be with Him where He is. Let us often reflect with joy on the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints and honor the faithfulness of our God by a holy confidence in Him.

Look upon Him as faithful and true, and therefore bound and engaged to present you, the weakest of the family, with all the chosen race before the throne of God. You will have the enjoyments that ravish the souls of the perfect saints above, if you can believe with unstaggering faith that “the one who calls you is faithful and He will do it.”

# OUR HOLY GUIDE

And the *LORD* shall guide thee continually.

ISAIAH 58:14 KJV

“The Lord shall guide thee.” Not an angel, but Jehovah shall guide you. God has not left you in your earthly pilgrimage to an angel’s guidance: He Himself leads the van. You may not see the cloudy, fiery pillar, but Jehovah will never forsake you.

Notice the word “shall”—“The Lord shall guide thee.” How certain this makes it! How sure it is that God will not forsake us! His precious “shalls” and “wills” are better than men’s oaths. “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.”

Then observe the adverb “continually.” We are not merely to be guided sometimes, but we are to have a perpetual monitor; not occasionally to be left to our own understanding, and so to wander, but we are continually to hear the guiding voice of the Great Shepherd; and if we follow close at His heels, we shall not err, but be led by a right way to a city to dwell in.

If you have to change your position in life, if you have to emigrate to distant shores, if it should happen that you are cast into poverty or uplifted suddenly into a more responsible position than the one you now occupy, if you are thrown among strangers or cast among foes, tremble not, for “the Lord shall guide you continually.”

There are no dilemmas out of which you shall not be delivered if you live near to God. He goes not amiss who goes in the company of God. You have infallible wisdom to direct you, immutable love to comfort you, and eternal power to defend you.

# GOD'S THOUGHTS FOR HIS CHILDREN

*"I remember you."*

JEREMIAH 2:2 NKJV

Let us note that Christ delights to think upon His Church and to look upon her beauty. As the bird returns often to its nest and as the wayfarer hastens to his home, so does the mind continually pursue the object of its choice. We cannot look too often upon that face that we love; we desire always to have our precious things in our sight.

It is even so with our Lord Jesus. From all eternity "His delights were with the sons of men." His thoughts rolled onward to the time when His elect should be born into the world; He viewed them in the mirror of His foreknowledge. "In your book," He says, "all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned when as yet there was none of them." When the world was set upon its pillars, He was there, and He set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

As the breastplate containing the names of the tribes of Israel was the most brilliant ornament worn by the high priest, so the names of Christ's elect were His most precious jewels and glittered on His heart. We may often forget to meditate upon the perfections of our Lord, but He never ceases to remember us.

Let us chide ourselves for past forgetfulness and pray for grace ever to bear Him in fondest remembrance. Lord, paint upon the eyeballs of my soul the image of Your Son.



# OUR ULTIMATE INHERITANCE

*He* will choose our inheritance for us.

PSALM 47:4 NKJV

Believer, if your inheritance is a lowly one, you should be satisfied with your earthly portion, for you may rest assured that it is the fittest for you. Unerring wisdom ordained your lot and selected for you the safest and best condition.

A large ship is to be brought up the river; now in one part of the stream there is a sandbank. Should someone ask, “Why does the captain steer through the deep part of the channel and deviate so much from a straight line?” his answer would be, “Because I could not get my vessel into harbor at all if I did not keep to the deep channel.” So, it may be, you would run aground and suffer shipwreck if your divine Captain did not steer you into the depths of affliction where waves of trouble follow each other in quick succession.

Some plants die if they have too much sunshine. It may be that you are planted where you get but little; you are put there by the loving Husbandman because only in that situation will you bring forth fruit unto perfection. Had any other condition been better for you than the one in which you are, divine love would have put you there. You are placed by God in the most suitable circumstances.

Take up your own daily cross; it is the burden best suited for your shoulder and will prove most effective to make you perfect in every good word and work to the glory of God.