



The Focus word for June is STRENGTH
Week 27 June 28- July 4

"Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually" 1 Chronicles 16:11

The power and strength that comes from God is what carries us on. We need to surrender to the strength that God provides and His strength is made perfect in our weakness. Be encouraged in that it is not your strength that is needed but the strength that God willingly supplies. Whew!

I found the following article interesting and I suggest you read it : "First, as one who wants to do all the good you can, you observe what tasks, opportunities, and responsibilities face you. Second, you pray for help in these, acknowledging that without Christ you can do nothing-nothing fruitful, that is (John 15:5). Third, you go to work with a good will and a high heart, expecting to be helped as you asked to be. Fourth, you thank God for help given, ask pardon for your own failures en route, and request more help for the next task. Augustinian holiness is hard working holiness, based on endless repetitions of this sequence.

My five steps omit his first one ("note what tasks are in front of you"). I divide his second step into two: **A. Admit** (his word, "acknowledge") that you can do nothing. **P. Pray** for God's help for the task at hand. Then I break his third step into two. He says "expect to get the help you asked for." Then with that expectation, "go to work with a good will." I say, **T. Trust** a particular promise of God's help. Then, in that faith, **Act (A)**. Finally, we both say, **T. Thank** God for the help received.

Admit

Pray

Trust

Act

Thank

Trust God's Promises

I think the middle T is all important. *Trust* a promise. This is the step I think is missing in most Christians' attempt to live the Christian life. It is certainly my most common mistake. Most of us face a difficult task and remember to say, "Help me, God. I need you." But then we move straight from P to A - *Pray to Act*. We pray and then we act. But this robs us of a very powerful step.

After we pray for God's help, we should remind ourselves of a specific promise that God has made. And fix our minds on it. And put our faith in it. And say to God: "I believe you, help my unbelief. Increase my faith in this promise. I'm trusting you, Lord, here I go." *Then* act.

Paul says we "walk by faith" (2 Corinthians 5:7) and "live by faith" (Galatians 2:20). But for most of us this remains vague. Hour by hour how do we do this? We do it by reminding ourselves of specific, concrete promises that God has made and Jesus has bought with his blood (2 Corinthians 1:20). Then we don't just pray for help hour by hour, we trust those specific promises hour by hour.

When Peter says, "Let him who serves serve in the strength that God supplies," we do this not only by praying for that supply, but by trusting in the promise of the supply in specific situations. Paul says that God "supplies the Spirit to you by hearing with faith" (Galatians 3:5). That is, we hear a promise and we believe it for a particular need, and the Holy Spirit comes to help us through that believed promise."

To read the entire article, go here:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-to-find-strength-in-the-strength-of-god>