

The Tsunami Blessing: Inside and Out, Part 33

After you have struggled all your life, you may think that you have to fight for favor too. No you won't. What's the difference now? Your set time for favor has come; it is not seasonal, it is sustainable. Allow Holy Spirit to usher you into the right place at the right time to make the right connections so the blessing can flow as far as the curse is found. In that way, the favor of God will fight for you. Unprecedented favor always gives you the unfair advantage. What first seems to be commotion is really convergence that pulls you into your destiny.

Keep persistence in your resistance so you won't come home empty handed. Arise and shine as more than a conqueror on any occasion: before, during, or after you possess the birthright, the blessing, and the bounty. The greater defense you have, the less offensive weapons you need to employ. The sweeter the victory you will have when the Lord of hosts is your Defender. Allow God to be an enemy to your enemy and an adversary to your adversary. Then you can stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. You are destined to receive supernatural military success when you crown Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords.

The Strength of the Kingdom of God

Genesis 49:8-12 The Message (MSG)

⁸⁻¹² You, Judah, your brothers will praise you:

Your fingers on your enemies' throat,
while your brothers honor you.

You're a lion's cub, Judah,
home fresh from the kill, my son.

Look at him, crouched like a lion, king of beasts;
who dares mess with him?

The scepter shall not leave Judah;

he'll keep a firm grip on the command staff

Until the ultimate ruler comes
and the nations obey him.

He'll tie up his donkey to the grapevine,
his purebred prize to a sturdy branch.

He will wash his shirt in wine
and his cloak in the blood of grapes,

His eyes will be darker than wine,
his teeth whiter than milk.

Psalm 89:27-29 Expanded Bible (EXB)

²⁷I will make him my firstborn son,
the ·greatest [highest] king on earth [[2:7](#); [2 Sam. 7:14](#)].

²⁸My ·love [loyalty] will ·watch over [keep; guard] him forever,
and my ·agreement [covenant; treaty] with him will ·never end[be
faithful].

²⁹I will ·make his family continue [[†]set his seed forever],
and his ·kingdom [[†]throne] ·will last as long as the skies [[†]like the days of
the skies/heavens].

2 Samuel 7, The Voice

7 Now when the king was settled in his house and the Eternal had given him rest from battling all his enemies, ²he spoke to the prophet Nathan.

David: Look at this: I live in a *beautiful* palace made of cedar, but the covenant chest of the True God rests in a tent made of curtains.

Nathan: ³Go do whatever you're planning to do, for the Eternal One is with you.

⁴But that same night, the Eternal spoke to Nathan.

Eternal One: ⁵Go and tell My servant David this message is from the Eternal One: "Are you the person who will build a house for Me to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since I brought My people Israel up from Egypt, but have moved around all this time in a tent, even in the congregation tent. ⁷Wherever My travels with the people of Israel have taken Me, did I ever go to one of the tribal leaders who were the shepherds for My sheep and ask, 'Why haven't you made Me a house of cedar *to live in?*'"

⁸So now you shall tell David, My servant this message is from the Eternal One, the Commander of *heavenly* armies: "I took you from the pastures

where you followed sheep and made you king of all My people Israel so *you now lead My sheep*. ⁹I have been with you wherever you journeyed and have given you victory over your enemies; and I will make you highly respected, with a name as great as any who live on earth. ¹⁰⁻¹¹And I will select a place for My people Israel and plant them *firmly in that place*, a land they can call their own, a land of peace. The wicked will not bother them again as they did from the time I appointed the judges to govern My people, and I will give you rest from fighting your enemies.

More importantly, I, the Eternal swear to you that I will raise up a dynasty from your family. ¹²When you come to the end of your days, and you *leave this life* to lie down with your fathers, I will raise up from you a descendant, your own flesh and blood, and I will make his kingdom *and family* sure. ¹³He will be the one to build a temple honoring My name, and I will establish the leadership of his kingdom for all time. ¹⁴I will be to him a father, and he will be to Me a son.^[a]When he crosses the line and acts badly, I will teach him with a rod used by people *for correction* and a lash *for discipline*. ¹⁵But I will not withdraw My love from him as I did from Saul, whom I set aside in favor of you. ¹⁶Your dynasty, your kingdom, will stand perpetually in My sight; *your descendants will rule continually.*"

¹⁷Nathan did as He had told him and related this vision to David. ¹⁸Then King David *was strongly moved and* went into the presence of the Eternal.

David: Who am I, O Eternal Lord, and what is my family that You have raised me so high? ¹⁹You have spoken of this as though it were a tiny thing, *simple*, O Eternal Lord. You have also talked about *the future of* Your servant's family *and kingdom*, a great future stretching off into the distance. This, O Eternal Lord, is Your instruction for humanity. ²⁰What can I say to You? You know Your servant *inside and out*, O Eternal Lord. ²¹Because You promised it and it pleased You, You have made these amazing things happen, so that Your servant might know *You are behind it*. ²²So You are great, O Eternal Lord. No one else like You exists, and there is no god greater than You, as we should know from everything we have heard.

²³And who is like Your people, Israel? Is there another nation on the earth where God went to redeem them from Egypt and to distinguish Himself

with awe-inspiring deeds of power by driving other nations and their *false* gods out of their path? ²⁴You chose to take Israel as Your people perpetually; and You, Eternal One, chose to be their God.

²⁵So yes, Eternal God, take the words You have spoken about me, Your servant, and my family *and kingdom*, and make them true perpetually. Do what You have promised. ²⁶Then Your name will be revered forever in the words, "The Eternal One, the Commander of *heavenly* armies, is the God over Israel," and the dynasty of Your servant David will be established before You. ²⁷For You, O Eternal God, the Commander of *heavenly* armies, the God of Israel, have shown me what You intend, saying, "I will establish your dynasty," and that is why I have found the courage to pray this prayer in Your presence. ²⁸O Eternal Lord, You are the True God, and Your words are always true, and You have made this good promise *to me*, Your servant. ²⁹So may it please You to *continue to bless me, my family, and my kingdom* so that my dynasty may be continually before Your sight. For You, O Eternal Lord, have spoken; and with Your blessing, my descendants *and kingdom* will always be blessed.

2 Samuel 23:1-7 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

23 Now these are the last words of David: David son of Jesse says, and the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, says,

²The Spirit of the Lord spoke in *and* by me, and His word was upon my tongue.

³The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me, When one rules over men righteously, ruling in the fear of God,

⁴He dawns on them like the morning light when the sun rises on a cloudless morning, when the tender grass springs out of the earth through clear shining after rain.

⁵Truly does not my house stand so with God? For He has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure. For will He not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?

⁶But wicked, godless, *and* worthless lives are all like thorns to be thrust away, because they cannot be taken with the hand.

⁷But the man who touches them arms himself with iron and the shaft of a spear, and they are utterly consumed with fire on the spot.

1 Kings 2:10-12 The Message (MSG)

10-12 Then David joined his ancestors. He was buried in the City of David. David ruled Israel for forty years—seven years in Hebron and another thirty-three in Jerusalem. Solomon took over on the throne of his father David; he had a **firm grip on the kingdom**.

2 Chronicles 1:1-6 The Message (MSG)

King Solomon

1 ¹⁻⁶ Solomon son of David took **a firm grip on the reins of his kingdom**. GOD was with him and gave him much help. Solomon addressed all Israel—the commanders and captains, the judges, every leader, and all the heads of families. Then Solomon and the entire company went to the worship center at Gibeon—that’s where the Tent of Meeting of God was, the one that Moses the servant of GOD had made in the wilderness. The Chest of God, though, was in Jerusalem—David had brought it up from Kiriath Jearim, prepared a special place for it, and pitched a tent for it. But the Bronze Altar that Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made was in Gibeon, in its place before the Tabernacle of GOD; and that is where Solomon and the congregation gathered to pray. Solomon worshiped GOD at the Bronze Altar in front of the Tent of Meeting; he sacrificed a thousand Whole-Burnt-Offerings on it.

2 Chronicles 17:1-6 The Message (MSG)

Jehoshaphat of Judah

17 ¹⁻⁶ Asa’s son Jehoshaphat was the next king; he started out by working on his defense system against Israel. He put troops in all the fortress cities of Judah and deployed garrisons throughout Judah and in the towns of

Ephraim that his father Asa had captured. GOD was on Jehoshaphat's side because he stuck to the ways of his father Asa's early years. He didn't fool around with the popular Baal religion—he was a seeker and follower of the God of his father and was obedient to him; he wasn't like Israel.

And God secured the kingdom under his rule, gave him a firm grip on it. And everyone in Judah showed their appreciation by bringing gifts. Jehoshaphat ended up very rich and much honored. He was single-minded in following GOD; and he got rid of the local sex-and-religion shrines.

Isaiah 9:5-8 The Voice (VOICE)

⁵*It's true.* All the fabric of war will go up in flames:

the troops' heavy boots *that stamped us down* and *their* blood-soaked garb

Will all be burned *beyond recognition or use.*

There will be a new time, a fresh start.

⁶*Hope of all hopes, dream of our dreams,*

a child is born, *sweet-breathed*; a son is given to us: *a living gift.*

And even now, with tiny features and dewy hair, He is great.

The power of leadership, and the weight of authority, will rest on His shoulders.

His name? His name we'll know in many ways—

He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Dear Father everlasting, ever-present never-failing,

Master of Wholeness, Prince of Peace.

⁷**His leadership will bring such prosperity as you've never seen before—**

sustainable peace for all time.

This child: God's promise to David—a throne forever, *among us,*

to restore sound leadership that cannot be perverted or shaken.

He will ensure justice without fail and absolute equity. Always.

The intense passion of the Eternal, Commander of *heavenly* armies, will carry this to completion.

⁸The Lord has dispatched a word against Jacob;

it will come down *hard* on Israel.

Revelation 1:4-6 King James Version (KJV)

⁴John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

⁵And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

⁶**And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

Psalms 16:8 King James Version (KJV)

⁸I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Acts 2:25-28 King James Version (KJV)

²⁵For David speaketh concerning him, **I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:**

²⁶Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

²⁷Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

²⁸Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Revelation 3:11 King James Version (KJV)

¹¹Behold, I come quickly: **hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.**

Psalms 5:12 King James Version (KJV)

¹²For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; **with favour wilt thou compass [crown] him as with a shield.**

Micah 4:9 The Voice (VOICE)

⁹Now, why do you cry aloud?

Don't you have a king in your midst?

Has your counselor vanished,

allowing pain to paralyze you as it does a woman in labor?

The Strength of God's Vowed Promises

Psalm 111:1-9 King James Version (KJV)

111 Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.

²The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

³His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

⁴He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

⁵He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant.

⁶He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.

⁷The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure.

⁸They **stand fast for ever and ever**, and are done in truth and uprightness.

⁹He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant forever: holy and reverend is his name.

Psalm 111:7-9 International Standard Version (ISV)

⁷Whatever he does is^[a] reliable and just,
and all his precepts are trustworthy,

⁸**sustained through all eternity [uninterrupted],**
and fashioned in both truth and righteousness.

°He sent deliverance to his people;
he ordained his covenant to last forever;
his name is holy and awesome.

Hebrews 13:5 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

⁵ Let your ^[a]character *or* moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; **for He [God] ^[b]Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you *nor* ^[c]give you up *nor* leave you without support. [I will] not, ^[d][I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless *nor* forsake *nor* ^[e]let [you] down (^[f]relax My hold on you)! [^[g]Assuredly not!]**

Isaiah 41:8-13 The Message (MSG)

8-10 "But you, Israel, are my servant.

You're Jacob, my first choice,
descendants of my good friend Abraham.

I pulled you in from all over the world,
called you in from every dark corner of the earth,
Telling you, 'You're my servant, serving on my side.

I've picked you. I haven't dropped you.'

Don't panic. I'm with you.

There's no need to fear for I'm your God.

I'll give you strength. I'll help you.

I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.

11-13 "Count on it: Everyone who had it in for you
will end up out in the cold—
real losers.

Those who worked against you
will end up empty-handed—
nothing to show for their lives.

When you go out looking for your old adversaries
you won't find them—

Not a trace of your old enemies,

not even a memory.

That's right. **Because I, your God,**

have a firm grip on you and I'm not letting go.

I'm telling you, 'Don't panic.

I'm right here to help you.'

Zechariah 8:9-13 The Message (MSG)

9-10 A Message from GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies:

"Get a grip on things. Hold tight, you who are listening to what I say through the preaching of the prophets. The Temple of GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies has been reestablished. The Temple is being rebuilt. We've come through a hard time: You worked for a pittance and were lucky to get that; the streets were dangerous; you could never let down your guard; I had turned the world into an armed camp.

11-12 "But things have changed. I'm taking the side of my core of surviving people:

Sowing and harvesting will resume,
Vines will grow grapes,
Gardens will flourish,
Dew and rain will make everything green.

12-13 "My core survivors will get everything they need—and more. You've gotten a reputation as a bad-news people, you people of Judah and Israel, but I'm coming to save you. From now on, you're the good-news people. Don't be afraid. **Keep a firm grip on what I'm doing.**"

Isaiah 49:15-18 The Message (MSG)

15-18 "Can a mother forget the infant at her breast,

walk away from the baby she bore?

But even if mothers forget,

I'd never forget you—never.

Look, I've written your names on the backs of my hands.

The walls you're rebuilding are never out of my sight.

Your builders are faster than your wreckers.

**The demolition crews are gone for good.
Look up, look around, look well!
See them all gathering, coming to you? [convergence]**

As sure as I am the living God"—GOD's Decree—
"you're going to put them on like so much jewelry,
you're going to use them to dress up like a bride.

Isaiah 56:4-5 The Message (MSG)

⁴⁻⁵ For GOD says:

"To the mutilated who keep my Sabbaths
and choose what delights me
and **keep a firm grip on my covenant**,
I'll provide them an honored place
in my family and within my city,
even more honored than that of sons and daughters.
I'll confer permanent honors on them
that will never be revoked.

God's Strong Hand always Settles Outstanding Matters

Exodus 6:1 The Message (MSG)

6 GOD said to Moses, "Now you'll see what I'll do to Pharaoh: With a **strong hand** he'll send them out free; with a **strong hand** he'll drive them out of his land."

Deuteronomy 26:5-10 The Message (MSG)

26 ¹⁻⁵ Once you enter the land that GOD, your God, is giving you as an inheritance and take it over and settle down, you are to take some of all the firstfruits of what you grow in the land that GOD, your God, is giving you, put them in a basket and go to the place GOD, your God, sets apart for you to worship him. At that time, go to the priest who is there and say, "I announce to GOD, your God, today that I have entered the land that GOD promised our ancestors that he'd give to us." The priest will take the basket from you and

place it on the Altar of GOD, your God. And there in the Presence of GOD, your God, you will recite:

5-10 A wandering Aramean was my father,
he went down to Egypt and sojourned there,
he and just a handful of his brothers at first, but soon
they became a great nation, mighty and many.
The Egyptians abused and battered us,
in a cruel and savage slavery.
We cried out to GOD, the God-of-Our-Fathers:
He listened to our voice, he saw
our destitution, our trouble, our cruel plight.
And GOD took us out of Egypt
with **his strong hand and long arm**, terrible and great,
with signs and miracle-wonders.
And he brought us to this place,
gave us this land flowing with milk and honey.
So here I am. I've brought the firstfruits
of what I've grown on this ground you gave me, O GOD.

Psalm 118:5-16 The Message (MSG)

5-16 Pushed to the wall, I called to GOD;
from the wide open spaces, he answered.
GOD's now at my side and I'm not afraid;
who would dare lay a hand on me?
GOD's my strong champion;
I flick off my enemies like flies.
Far better to take refuge in GOD
than trust in people;
Far better to take refuge in GOD
than trust in celebrities.
Hemmed in by barbarians,
in GOD's name I rubbed their faces in the dirt;
Hemmed in and with no way out,
in GOD's name I rubbed their faces in the dirt;
Like swarming bees, like wild prairie fire, they hemmed me in;

in GOD's name I rubbed their faces in the dirt.

**I was right on the cliff-edge, ready to fall,
when God grabbed and held me.**

GOD's my strength, he's also my song,
and now he's my salvation.

Hear the shouts, hear the triumph songs
in the camp of the saved?

**"The hand of God has turned the tide!
The hand of God is raised in victory!
The hand of God has turned the tide!"**

Isaiah 40:9-11 King James Version (KJV)

⁹ O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD will come with **strong hand**, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

¹¹ He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Jeremiah 31:10-14 The Message (MSG)

¹⁰⁻¹⁴ "Hear this, nations! GOD's Message!

Broadcast this all over the world!

Tell them, 'The One who scattered Israel
will gather them together again.

From now on he'll keep a careful eye on them,
like a shepherd with his flock.'

I, GOD, will pay a stiff ransom price for Jacob;

I'll free him from the grip of the Babylonian bully.

The people will climb up Zion's slopes shouting with joy,
their faces beaming because of GOD's bounty—

Grain and wine and oil,
flocks of sheep, herds of cattle.

Their lives will be like a well-watered garden,
never again left to dry up.
Young women will dance and be happy,
young men and old men will join in.
I'll convert their weeping into laughter,
lavishing comfort, invading their grief with joy.
I'll make sure that their priests get three square meals a day
and that my people have more than enough." GOD'S Decree.

Nahum 1:7-8 Amplified Bible (AMP)

7

The LORD is good,

A strength and stronghold in the day of trouble;

He knows [He recognizes, cares for, and understands fully] those who take refuge *and* trust in Him.

8

But with an ^[a]overwhelming flood [of judgment through invading armies]
He will make a complete destruction of ^[b]its site
And will pursue His enemies into darkness.

Our Strong Hand grips the Stronghold

Job 17:9 The Message (MSG)

⁹ "But principled people **hold tight, keep a firm grip on life,**
sure that their clean, pure hands will get stronger and stronger!

1 Thessalonians 3:8 King James Version (KJV)

⁸For now we live, **if ye stand fast in the Lord.**

1 Thessalonians 5:21 King James Version (KJV)

²¹Prove all things; **hold fast that which is good.**

Proverbs 4:13 King James Version (KJV)

¹³**Take fast hold of instruction;** let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 The Message (MSG)

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ So, friends, take a firm stand, feet on the ground and head high. **Keep a tight grip on what you were taught**, whether in personal conversation or by our letter. May Jesus himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised you with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in you, invigorate your work, enliven your speech.

Hebrews 2:1-4 The Message (MSG)

2¹⁻⁴ It's crucial that we keep a firm grip on what we've heard so that we don't drift off. If the old message delivered by the angels was valid and nobody got away with anything, do you think we can risk neglecting this latest message, this magnificent salvation? First of all, it was delivered in person by the Master, then accurately passed on to us by those who heard it from him. All the while God was validating it with gifts through the Holy Spirit, all sorts of signs and miracles, as he saw fit.

2 Timothy 1:13 King James Version (KJV)

¹³ **Hold fast the form of sound words**, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 10:22-25 The Message (MSG)

²²⁻²⁵ So let's *do* it—full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. **Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going.** He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.

Hebrews 4:14 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our profession.**

Hebrews 10:23 King James Version (KJV)

²³ Let us **hold fast the profession of our faith** without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Hebrews 10:22-24 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

²²So let's come near God with pure hearts and a confidence that comes from having faith. Let's keep our hearts pure, our consciences free from evil, and our bodies washed with clean water. ²³**We must hold tightly to the hope that we say is ours. After all, we can trust the one who made the agreement with us.** ²⁴We should keep on encouraging each other to be thoughtful and to do helpful things.

1 Timothy 1:15-19 The Message (MSG)

¹⁵⁻¹⁹Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I'm proof—Public Sinner Number One—of someone who could never have made it apart from sheer mercy. And now he shows me off—evidence of his endless patience—to those who are right on the edge of trusting him forever.

Deep honor and bright glory
to the King of All Time—
One God, Immortal, Invisible,
ever and always. Oh, yes!

I'm passing this work on to you, my son Timothy. The prophetic word that was directed to you prepared us for this. All those prayers are coming together now so you will do this well, fearless in your struggle, **keeping a firm grip on your faith and on yourself.** After all, this is a fight we're in.

Hebrews 3:6-11 The Message (MSG)

The Centerpiece of All We Believe

3 ¹⁻⁶So, my dear Christian friends, companions in following this call to the heights, take a good hard look at Jesus. He's the centerpiece of everything we believe, faithful in everything God gave him to do. Moses was also faithful, but Jesus gets far more honor. A builder is more valuable than a building any day. Every house has a builder, but the Builder behind them all is God. Moses did a good job in God's house, but it was all servant work, getting things ready for what was to come. Christ as Son is in charge of the house.

⁶⁻¹¹ Now, if we can only **keep a firm grip on this bold confidence**, we're the house! That's why the Holy Spirit says,

Today, please listen;

don't turn a deaf ear as in "the bitter uprising,"
that time of wilderness testing!

Even though they watched me at work for forty years,
your ancestors refused to let me do it my way;
over and over they tried my patience.

And I was provoked, oh, so provoked!

I said, "They'll never keep their minds on God;
they refuse to walk down my road."

Exasperated, I vowed,

"They'll never get where they're going,
never be able to sit down and rest."

Job 2:2-4 King James Version (KJV)

²And the LORD said unto satan, From whence comest thou? And satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

³And the LORD said unto satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still **he holdeth fast his integrity**, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

⁴And satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

John 14:30-31 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

³⁰I will not talk with you much more, for the prince (evil genius, ruler) of the world is coming. And he has no claim on Me. [He has nothing in common with Me; there is nothing in Me that belongs to him, and he has no power over Me.]

³¹ But [^[a]satan is coming and] I do as the Father has commanded Me, so that the world may know (be convinced) that I love the Father and that I do only what the Father has instructed Me to do. [I act in full agreement with His orders.] Rise, let us go away from here.

Stand Fast with a Strong Hand

1 Corinthians 16:13 King James Version (KJV)

¹³ Watch ye, **stand fast in the faith**, quit you like men, be strong.

Galatians 5:1 King James Version (KJV)

5 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Philippians 1:27 King James Version (KJV)

²⁷ Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that **ye stand fast in one spirit**, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Philippians 4:1 King James Version (KJV)

4 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so **stand fast in the Lord**, my dearly beloved.

Ephesians 6:10-13 King James Version (KJV)

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

¹¹ **Put on the whole armour of God, that ye 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.

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

Ephesians 6:10-13 The Voice (VOICE)

¹⁰ Finally, brothers and sisters, draw your strength and might from God. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God to protect yourselves from the devil and his evil schemes. ¹²We're not waging war against enemies of flesh and blood alone. No, this fight is against tyrants, against authorities, against *supernatural powers and demon princes that slither* in the darkness of this world, and against wicked *spiritual armies* that lurk about in heavenly places.

¹³ And this is why you need to be head-to-toe in the full armor of God: so you can resist during these evil days and be fully prepared to hold your ground.

James 4:6-8 The Voice (VOICE)

⁶*You may think that the situation is hopeless, but God gives us more grace when we turn away from our own interests.* That's why Scripture says, God opposes the proud, but He pours out grace on the humble.^[a]

⁷ So submit yourselves to the one true God and fight against the devil and his schemes. If you do, he will run away in failure. ⁸Come close to the one true God, and He will draw close to you. Wash your hands; you have dirtied them in sin. Cleanse your heart, because your mind is split down the middle, *your love for God on one side and selfish pursuits on the other.*

1 Peter 5:8-11 The Message (MSG)

He Gets the Last Word

⁸⁻¹¹ Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep your guard up. You're not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It's the same with Christians all over the world. **So keep a firm grip on the faith.** The suffering won't last forever. It won't be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ—eternal and glorious plans they are!—will

have you put together and on your feet for good. He gets the last word; yes, he does.

1 Peter 5:7-11 Expanded Bible (EXB)

⁷·Give all your worries to him [Cast all your anxiety on him], because he cares about you.

⁸·Control [Discipline] yourselves and be ·careful [alert]! The devil, your enemy, ·goes around [prowls] like a roaring lion looking for someone to ·eat [devour]. ⁹·Refuse to give in to [Resist] him, by standing strong in your faith. You know that your ·Christian family [community of believers; ·brotherhood] all over the world is having the same kinds of suffering.

¹⁰And after you suffer ·for a short time [*or* a little], God, who gives all grace, will ·make everything right [·restore you]. He will make you strong and support you and keep you from falling. He called you ·to share in his glory in Christ, a glory that will continue forever [·into his eternal glory in Christ]. ¹¹·All power is his [*or* To him be the power] forever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 7:1-2 Expanded Bible (EXB)

A Prayer for Fairness

A shiggaion [·a musical or literary term of uncertain meaning] of David which he sang to the LORD about Cush, from the tribe of Benjamin [·an unknown person, but the tribe of Benjamin, Saul's tribe, resisted David's kingship at first; 2 Sam. 3-4].

7 LORD my God, I ·trust in you for protection [find refuge in you].

·Save [Rescue; ·Deliver] me and rescue me from those who are ·chasing [pursuing] me.

²Otherwise, like a lion they will tear me apart.

They will ·rip me to pieces [*or* drag me away], and no one can ·save [rescue; ·deliver] me.

Psalm 7:1-2 King James Version (KJV)

7 O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:

²Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.

John 13:1-2 The Message (MSG)

Washing His Disciples' Feet

13 ¹⁻² Just before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that the time had come to leave this world to go to the Father. Having loved his dear companions, he continued to love them right to the end. It was supertime. The devil by now had Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, **firmly in his grip**, all set for the betrayal.

1 John 5:18-21 The Message (MSG)

18-21 We know that none of the God-begotten makes a practice of sin—fatal sin. The God-begotten are also the God-protected. The evil one can't lay a hand on them. We know that we are held firm by God; **it's only the people of the world who continue in the grip of the evil one.** And we know that the Son of God came so we could recognize and understand the truth of God—what a gift!—and we are living in the Truth itself, in God's Son, Jesus Christ. This Jesus is both True God and Real Life. Dear children, be on guard against all clever facsimiles.

Philippians 3:13-16 J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)

12-14 Yet, my brothers, I do not consider myself to have "arrived", spiritually, nor do I consider myself already perfect. But I **keep going on, grasping ever more firmly that purpose for which Christ grasped me.** My brothers, I do not consider myself to have fully grasped it even now. But I do concentrate on this: I leave the past behind and with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead I go straight for the goal—my reward the honour of being called by God in Christ.

My ambition is the true goal of the spiritually adult: make it yours

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ All of us who are spiritually adult should set ourselves this sort of ambition, and if at present you cannot see this, yet you will find that this is the attitude which God is leading you to adopt. It is important that we go forward in the light of such truth as we have ourselves attained to.

Psalm 18:16-18 Living Bible (TLB)

¹⁶ He reached down from heaven and took me and drew me out of my great trials. He rescued me from deep waters. ¹⁷ **He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me—I who was helpless in their hands.**

¹⁸ **On the day when I was weakest, they attacked. But the Lord held me steady.**

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 The Passion Translation (TPT)

⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to relieve me of this. ⁹ But he answered me, **“My grace is always more than enough for you,^[a] and my power finds its full expression through your weakness.”** So I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I’m weak I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me.^[b] ¹⁰ So I’m *not defeated* by my weakness, but delighted! For when I feel my weakness and endure mistreatment—when I’m surrounded with troubles on every side and face persecution *because of my love* for Christ—I am made yet stronger. For my weakness becomes a portal to God’s power.

Isaiah 40:26-31 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see! Who has created these? He Who brings out their host by number and calls them all by name; **through the greatness of His might and because He is strong in power**, not one is missing *or* lacks anything.

²⁷ Why, O Jacob, do you say, and declare, O Israel, My way *and* my lot are hidden from the Lord, and my right is passed over without regard from my God?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not faint or grow weary; there is no searching of His understanding.

²⁹He gives power to the faint *and* weary, and to him who has no might He increases strength [causing it to multiply and making it to abound].

³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and [selected] young men shall feebly stumble *and* fall exhausted;

³¹But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall change *and* renew their strength *and* power; they shall lift their wings *and* mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint *or* become tired.

God is enthroned in your Praise

Psalm 89:12-15 Living Bible (TLB)

¹²You created north and south! Mount Tabor and Mount Hermon rejoice to be signed by your name as their maker! ¹³**Strong is your arm! Strong is your hand! Your right hand is lifted high in glorious strength.**

¹⁴⁻¹⁵Your throne is founded on two strong pillars—the one is Justice and the other Righteousness. Mercy and Truth walk before you as your attendants. Blessed are those who hear the joyful blast of the trumpet, for they shall walk in the light of your presence.

Psalm 89:28 King James Version (KJV)

²⁸My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall **stand fast** with him.

Psalm 136:1-12 King James Version (KJV)

136 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

² O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.

³ O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.

- ⁴ To him who alone doeth great wonders: for his mercy endureth for ever.
- ⁵ To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for his mercy endureth for ever.
- ⁶ To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for his mercy endureth for ever.
- ⁷ To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever:
- ⁸ The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever:
- ⁹ The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever.
- ¹⁰ To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for ever:
- ¹¹ And brought out Israel from among them: for his mercy endureth for ever:
- ¹² **With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever.**

Psalm 91 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

Psalm 91

¹ He who ^[a]dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable *and* fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand].

² I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean *and* rely, *and* in Him I [confidently] trust!

³ For [then] He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ [Then] He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings shall you trust *and* find refuge; His truth *and* His faithfulness are a shield and a buckler.

⁵ You shall not be afraid of the terror of the night, nor of the arrow (the evil plots and slanders of the wicked) that flies by day,

⁶ Nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction *and* sudden death that surprise *and* lay waste at noonday.

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you.

⁸ Only a spectator shall you be [yourself inaccessible in the secret place of the Most High] as you witness the reward of the wicked.

⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place,

¹⁰ There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague *or* calamity come near your tent.

¹¹ For He will give His angels [especial] charge over you to accompany *and* defend *and* preserve you in all your ways [of obedience and service].

¹² They shall bear you up on their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

¹³ You shall tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent shall you trample underfoot.

¹⁴ Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he knows *and* understands My name [has a personal knowledge of My mercy, love, and kindness—trusts and relies on Me, knowing I will never forsake him, no, never].

¹⁵ He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation.

Psalm 44

For the worship leader. A contemplative song^[a] of the sons of Korah.

¹With our own ears, O God, we have heard the stories
our ancestors recited of Your deeds in their days, days long past—
how You saved the day.

²With a powerful hand, You drove the nations *from this land*,
but then You planted our parents here.

You fought for us against people of this land;
You set our parents free *to enjoy its goodness.*

³They did not win the land with their swords.
It wasn't their strength that won them victory.
It was *Your strength*—Your right hand, Your arm,
and the light of Your presence *that gave them success*,
for You loved them.

⁴You are my King, my God!
You ordained victories for Jacob *and his people!*

⁵You are *our victory*, pushing back the enemy;
at the sound of Your name, we crush the opposition.

⁶I don't trust in my weapons
or in my strength to win me victory.

⁷But You rescue us from our foes;
You shame our enemies.

⁸We shout Your name all day long;
we will praise Your name forever!

[pause]^[b]