



A new creation focus through Colossians ...

God Qualifies Us

In athletics or warfare, sooner or later the contest is "strength against strength." In athletics, the contest really doesn't matter, other than for those emotionally involved, or in the character lessons learned. In warfare it is more serious, for there are those whose souls are launched into eternity on the battlefield, and the fate of nations hangs in the balance. Ultimately, the real "contest" is between Christ and Satan, and the warfare is spiritual. This is where "strength against strength" is especially going to count. "God," says the Holy Spirit, "has placed the members [Christians] — each one of them — in the

body, just as He desired" (1 Corinthians 12:18). In other words, as the All Wise conducts His warfare against the prince of darkness and his minions, He strategically places the Christians exactly where He wants them. It is important, then, that each of those so placed be strong and dependable.

▼ **Strength** — "Be strong and courageous," said God to Joshua, as he prepared to take the Promised Land (Joshua 1:6). How much more are those who are fighting the spiritual battles for the spiritual promised land in need of strength and courage! The continuation, then, of Paul's prayer for the Colossian brethren is that they be "strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might" (Colossians 1:11). Each saint can be more than just *sort of* strong spiritually, but "strengthened with all power"! The Christian is not just a defeated individual, huddled at the base of the cross of Jesus and crying out to Him for the salvation of him "the worthless." The Christian clearly instead can tap into "all power," with the superlative "according to the might of His glory"!! That glory, by the way, is defined as the power that it took to get Jesus out of Hades, and off the surface of the earth to the throne in heaven. MEGA POWER!!

▼ **Steadfastness and patience** — When a soldier is strategically placed, it is super important that he carry out his duty very faithfully. It is important that the watchman not sleep on his watch; it is important that the support personnel fulfill their roles; it is important that those on the front line carry out the battle plan. It is likewise critical that each spiritual soldier be faithful, or *steadfast*. The apostle thus prays, on their behalf, "for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience." For the saint to be able to stand his ground steadfastly while the horses and chariots of the forces of evil are charging upon him, to be able not to flinch in the face of such adversity, is exactly what God needs. If he is steadfast, because of the tremendous strength with which his action is backed, the forces of darkness must stop; they are blocked at that point from accomplishing their evil purposes. In a similar fashion, the saint must be tremendously patient. He must be patient with the other people or saints involved in the situation, he must be patient with himself, and he must wait on the patience of God. In warfare, timing is critical, and the saint who gets impatient jumps ahead of the battle plan of God.

▼ **Qualified** — The Father is active rather than passive in working with the saints; after all, it is really His battle. He is the One who strengthens, He is the One who give steadfastness and patience. Hence the saints are "joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light" (Colossians 1:12). Through His marvelous plan He selects His warriors, and also qualifies them to carry out the duties He has prepared for them.

No one should skip over the words "joyously giving thanks to the Father." When the disciple of Christ has the proper spiritual perspective, each day is a day of joy and thanksgiving. Such a people are guaranteed to be victorious, and to draw out of this world those that are attracted likewise to such joy and thanksgiving.

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