

Rely On God's Strength

Today marks the 7TH and final day of the feast of Unleavened Bread this year. Over the course of the past week, as we have eaten unleavened bread, we have been reminded that our ongoing state of being spiritually unleavened—being under the grace of God—is made possible by the presence of Jesus Christ in us. As we come to the close of this feast, we need to consider another aspect of the presence of God in our lives: the knowledge that, as well as being in us, God is also with us! This is one of the greatest lessons connected with the 7TH day of the Days of Unleavened Bread. In order to understand this lesson we need to go back to the account of Israel's first 7TH day of Unleavened Bread:

EXO 13:17-18 Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.

God guided the path they were to follow.

13:19-22 And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you." So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

It was very obvious that God was with them

14:1-8 Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.' "Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD." And they did so. Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness.

They thought all their problems were behind them. God promised Abraham that his descendants would be delivered from the nation which would enslave them and would leave with great substance (GEN 15). Everything had happened that was supposed to happen.

14:9-10 So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.

They weren't expecting any more surprises.

14:11-12 *Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.'"*

They threw their hands up in resignation, "Why have we had so many trials and still another one?"

14:13-14 *And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."*

See the salvation of the LORD! God's presence was there in the cloud and in the fire, yet they lost sight of the power and strength which God's presence provides.

14:19-20 *And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.*

There was no mistaking that God was there.

14:21-22 *Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.*

God's power and strength were made evident.

14:23-25 *And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."*

The Egyptians witnessed God's strength.

14:26-28 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained.*

Water covered them! This was not the Sea of Reeds!

14:29-31 *But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the great work [Hebrew: "hand"; NIV: "power"] which the LORD*

had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses.

The destruction of the army of Egypt did not end Israel's problems forever. Although God could have forever shielded them from every trouble and prevented every temptation—He didn't! Their trials continued one after another. The apostle Paul gives us insight into the reason for this in:

1CO 10:1-5 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

Israel, the physical nation, was baptized, ate spiritual bread and drank from the Rock. Yet, most of them didn't please God.

10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come.

The various types of testing experienced by Israel were preserved to be used as teaching aids for the spiritual nation of the Church.

10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

We are cautioned not to think too highly of ourselves; we must not assume that we are so spiritually sound that we are immune to failure. Just because we have survived the assault on basic truth in the meltdown of WCG and one or more tests for faith in various organizations since then, does not mean that we are infallible.

10:13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing He will also provide the way out [NKJ: "of escape"] so that you may be able to endure it. (NRS)

Paul doesn't say God won't allow us to be tested, rather that God will definitely test us, just as He did Israel. But, we are to learn from Israel's mistakes and utilize the way of escape they either didn't possess or failed to use. We know that the primary emphasis of the way to escape being overcome by trials is by using the power of God's spirit in us—something Israel did not have. But, there is another aspect of escape that involves God's intervention in other ways; this aspect Israel did have, but in most cases failed to use.

To see this aspect, let's briefly review the examples of testing experienced by Israel which Paul mentions in the previous verses. Let's also stay alert to the fact that spiritual Israel is warned in this passage that it will be tested in these same categories.

10:6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

Israel lusted after quail—physical, fleshly things, rather than desiring and appreciating the bread from heaven—the manna—that God supplied them. In order to sustain their physical lives, the Israelites were required to spend time seeking manna six days every week and eating manna every day. Jesus later taught His disciples that the manna represented Jesus Himself (JOH 6:58). It symbolized the spiritual bread required by those who have received the earnest of eternal life. The true disciples of Jesus understand that they are not only to ask God to provide them their daily bread (MAT 6:11), but they are also to spend time seeking and eating that bread through the daily study of and meditation on the Word of God.

Despite this understanding, too many of Christ's disciples have been brought down by spending more time on the things of this world, than the things of God. They spend more time seeking out and eating the entertainment dished out by the world, than in the study of the bread of God's Word. Their lack of adequate Bible study results in weak Christians who are highly susceptible to deceivers.

10:7 *Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry."* (NIV)

Israel worshipped the golden calf rather than the living God. As we all know, anything that we put ahead of God or His truth is idolatry. Sometimes it is very blatant, such as the false doctrines of trinitarianism, participation in pagan holidays, eating unclean meats, etc. that were introduced in WCG in the late 80s and early 90s. Sometimes idolatry is not so easily identified, but has been done by some. For example, some have allowed themselves to be unduly influenced with men, to the extent they are more enamored by the personalities or charisma of men than with God's truth. That is idolatry! Those who have been guilty of such conduct need to evaluate themselves carefully. Anytime a man attempts to promote himself, we need to be very leery because a true minister of Christ will always direct the attention of God's people to Christ and God's truth, not to himself. Don't forget, it will be the pull of charisma that leads men to reject the truth and follow the Antichrist.

2TH 2:1-4 *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first [NIV: "until the rebellion occurs"; REB: "before the final rebellion against God"], and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God [sits, ie, as the supreme ruling power] in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

2:8-12 *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved [PHL: "refused to love the truth which could have saved them"]. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Those involved in the practice of idolatry—who allow themselves to be influenced by men more than by the truth of God—are taking pleasure in unrighteousness and are in danger of being swayed to accept the imposter of Jesus Christ.

1CO 10:8 *Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell*

Israel consorted with the temple prostitutes of Baal at Mt. Peor. By their conduct, they exhibited their unwillingness to be loyal to the marriage covenant to which they had vowed to be faithful at Mt. Sinai. There is clearly a lesson for us contained within this example. Just as Israel vowed to be faithful to God at Sinai, each of us vowed loyalty to the conditions of the marriage contract we made with God at baptism (LUK 14:26-27). Any time we fail to put God and His will first in our lives and actions, anytime we fail to take up our cross daily (ie, continue with our lifetime commitment), or anytime we fail to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ in the way we live our lives, we are being unfaithful to our marriage contract with God.

10:9 *nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents*

This example refers to what occurred in NUM 21. Israel became discouraged and impatient because of the hardships they continued to encounter by following the way God required them to go; they expressed their dissatisfaction by complaining about the manna and by longing for their old lives in Egypt. Their discouragement sprang from doubt; they doubted God's ability to bring them to the land He promised them.

PSA 78:40-43 *How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, and grieved Him in the desert! Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember His power: the day when He redeemed them from the enemy, when He worked His signs in Egypt, and His wonders in the field of Zoan*

Despite all that God done for Israel, they continually forgot that He was always available to extend His power to deliver them from any and every trouble. In a similar fashion, some of God's people today have tempted God by becoming discouraged, limited God by forgetting everything that He has already done for them, and forgotten that He is always ready and willing to extend His strength and provide help in their time of need.

1CO 10:10 *nor murmur, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed by the destroyer.*

There were numerous times when Israel grumbled and complained when things did not go the way they thought they should. They murmured about how unfair it was that Korah and those who supported his insurrection against Moses were destroyed. They murmured when they heard the report from the ten faithless spies of the obstacles that would be impossible for them to overcome if they attempted to take possession of the Promised Land.

Some of God's people today have also been guilty of murmuring and complaining because of what they see as obstacles that will prevent them from concluding what God requires them to do. Like Israel, whenever a new test or trial arises on the road to the Promised Land, they lose sight of the strength of God.

Many of God's people were hoping that after coming through the trial of the heresy which God allowed to develop within WCG, that that was the final test, that they were finally done with major upsets and trials. We were hoping, just as Israel did after the 10TH plague on Egypt that all of the problems were behind us. Yet, virtually every organization which has sprung up since that breakup has undergone turbulence. Group sizes continue to dwindle. People ask, why is God upset with us? Have we made a wrong choice? Why don't our trials ever come to an end?

First of all, we need to understand that God never promises a time in this life when trials will end. We've already read 1CO 10:13 where we are told God will not allow us to be tested beyond our strength. Added to that is:

PSA 34:19 *many are the afflictions of the righteous...*

ACT 14:22 *...We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.*

1PE 4:12-13 *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings...*

4:19 *Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God...*

1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God [His strength] through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

1:6 *Rejoice in this, even though for a little while you may have to experience grief in various trials.* (JNT)

1:7 *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.* (NIV)

After understanding the necessity of trials, we next need to remember that Pharaoh's pursuit of Israel represented Satan's pursuit of God's Church. And just as God made a way for Israel to escape Pharaoh's clutches, so God makes a way for us to escape from being destroyed by trials. Sometimes, God simply keeps the devil at bay for awhile so that we can rest before the next onslaught of trials. Clearly, there is no time before Satan is bound after Christ returns that he will no longer be our adversary. In fact, God prophesies that the devil will intensify his attacks on us the closer we come to the end of the age.

REV 12:7-10 *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.*

Defamatory accusations continue to be hurled among individuals who claim to be part of the body of Christ. Don't be naive; this is not done without Satan's involvement!

12:11-13 *They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short." When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.* (NIV)

When this happens the true disciples of Jesus Christ will be on the receiving end of hideous accusations which all who give their allegiance to the Antichrist will believe.

12:14 *The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.* (NIV)

All of Christ's disciples who have patiently endured the increase in offenses, betrayals and hatreds due to the love of God growing cold—who have kept God's word and have not refused to submit to the presence of Christ in them—will escape Satan's initial pursuit. Once going to Jerusalem, some may feel the trials are all over, they have it made. But, then:

12:15 *So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.*

Once again the devil will attempt to destroy the part of the Church privileged to receive God's protection for the duration of the Tribulation.

12:16 *But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.*

Not until God, by His strength, thwarts the devil, as the elect enter the place of refuge, will the trials with Satan end.

This prophecy of God's future deliverance of His people, very similar to His deliverance of Israel through the Red Sea, is given as an encouragement to us not to lose sight of the power of God at our disposal. Despite these examples, we sometimes become so overwhelmed by trials that we fail to recall God's willingness to display His awesome power on our behalf. There are numerous examples preserved in scripture which help us to realize that no one is always perfect in keeping this truth in mind; one such example is that of Elijah the prophet:

1KI 17:1 *And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."*

It didn't rain for 3½ years. By this event alone, Elijah personally knew of the awesome power of God which God can provide His people. But, there were more events that Elijah experienced that should have strengthened his confidence in God's willingness to come to the aid of His chosen ones:

17:8-16 *Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.'" So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.*

Elijah knew this was by God's strength.

17:17-22 *Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?" And he said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. Then he cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him." Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.*

Once again God's strength was evidenced.

18:30-38 *Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve*

stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name." Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed. And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood." Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time. So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water. And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. "Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again." Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

Without question, Elijah knew he could call upon the strength of God!

Yet, despite all the times God's strength was exhibited in Elijah's presence, he still ran for his life instead of relying on God's strength when Jezebel threatened to avenge the deaths of the prophets of Baal. During the time he fled from her, Elijah told God he was the only one who hadn't worshipped Baal. He felt all alone. But, God assured him he was wrong about the religious state of the nation:

19:18 "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

There were 7000 who refused to worship Baal; God's strength is great enough to prevent the gates of the grave from extinguishing all of His chosen ones! We too, need to keep in mind that God prophesied only a small flock, which He promised would not die out. We must also remember that flock is **not** a **physical** organization, but rather a **spiritual** organism. We may continue to witness the disintegration of physical organizations, but the spiritual organism will **never** disappear.

In the times ahead, we need to have the same spiritual comprehension possessed by Elisha the prophet:

2KI 6:8-18 Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place." The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Will you not tell me which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom." "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Strike these people with blindness." So He struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked. (NIV)

Elisha knew the strength of God, and so must we. Our trials haven't ended. The devil is still in pursuit. If we, like Elisha, understand that "*those who are with us are more than those who are with them*", we won't stumble or be afraid of whatever lies ahead.

After Christ's return at the 7TH trump, the saints will all go with Him to stand on the sea of glass before the throne of God. It's very interesting what they will do at that point:

REV 15:2-3 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!"

Historically, the song of Moses was sung immediately after Israel saw God's salvation in the destruction of the army of Egypt on the 7TH day of Unleavened Bread:

EXO 15:1-2 Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

The focus of the song is that salvation is by God's strength.

15:4-7 Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. The depths have covered them; they sank to the bottom like a stone. "Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces. And in the greatness of Your excellence You have overthrown those who rose against You; You sent forth Your wrath; it consumed them like stubble.

15:8 By the blast of Your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood firm like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea. (NIV)

15:13, 17-18 You in Your mercy have led forth the people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength to Your holy habitation...You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which You have made for Your own dwelling, the sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have established. The LORD shall reign forever and ever.

This song will be sung before the throne of God after the resurrection to amplify the understanding that salvation depends totally upon the strength of God!

Brethren, during the remainder of this festival and days that follow, let's rejoice in knowing that we are not alone. God hasn't called us to face trials on our own. In fact, the very reason for the trials we must face is to teach us to look to God's strength. As we go forth from this time on, let's draw closer than ever to God so that we can have the same level of confidence in our trials and problems that the prophet David did, as he expressed in:

*PSA 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but **the LORD DELIVERS him out of them ALL!***