

1. We're going to continue this morning with our series, **This is Your Year of Jubilee.**
2. In the old testament, the year of jubilee occurred every 50 years, and in the 50th year, all lands, properties, most houses, were given back to the original owner.
3. And, anyone who had sold themselves as a servant was granted their freedom.
4. I believe with all of my heart that God is, even as we speak, in the process of restoring back to us, for us, and through us what he originally intended us to be.
5. He is in the process of giving us our freedom back from the things that have bound us and hindered our liberty in Him.
6. Last week we talked about the restoration of our joy. David cried out to the Lord in **Psalm 51:12** Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
7. David's joy was gone because he had been pretending that everything between he and the Lord was fine, when in fact it was not fine. He had sinned miserably.
8. We said however that the key to the restoration of that joy was confession. He came clean with God about where his heart was and he confessed his sin.
9. We said last week that the word confession and the idea of confession is something that usually makes us uncomfortable. To confess is to take responsibility. To admit fault.
10. If someone approaches us and drops their head and says, I have a confession to make, what usually happens is we get this sick feeling in the pit of our stomach because we fear that what we will hear next will be painful. And often times it is.
11. And so, because we have the tendency to respond negatively to confession, we assume that God is the same way. But the truth us that is not how God views confession.
12. God has already pre-determined how he will respond to our confession, and I will give you a hint, his response will not be one of rejection.

13. 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

14. God's response to sincere confession is not to reject us, but instead to draw us close to himself and to provide for us the cleansing and the wholeness and the freedom that we so desperately need.
15. My prayer is that confession will become a normal, natural part of your walk with the Lord.
16. This morning we are going to talk about another wonderful thing that the Lord longs to restore in our lives. Strength.

TEXT: Isaiah 40:27-31 Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? **28** Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. **29** He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. **30** Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; **31** but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

TITLE: Renew Your Strength.

INTRO.

1. So, let's get this out of the way right up front. Confession isn't the only thing we don't like. Not only do we not like admitting fault, we also don't like admitting weakness.
2. And just so we can all be on the same page; the reality is pastors and ministers are some of the most resistant to admitting weakness.
3. I grew up in an era where you almost never heard a pastor or minister admit or confess weakness or struggle.
4. Early in ministry I learned that most pastors would rather you cut off their right arm than admit weakness.
5. I guess pastors in that era thought that if they admitted weakness that people would reject them and not want to listen to what they had to say from the word of God.
6. I'm not sure exactly when the shift began to occur in my thinking, but at some point I became convinced that people don't really want to be lead by someone who pretends like they have it all together and never

experiences weakness and weariness. They would rather be lead by someone who admits that they too struggle.

7. Jesus was the perfect example of not hiding his weakness. When Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray right before his crucifixion, he took along Peter, James and John. He allowed them to see his anguish at what he was facing.
8. He allowed them to hear him beg God to take this bitter cup of suffering from him and to rescue him from the pain he was going to endure.
9. To be clear, **pretending like we have it all together and never experience times of weakness is not Christ-like**, it is in admitting our weakness that we are Christ-like.
10. And it is only in the admitting of our weakness that we can hope to experience the renewal of our strength.
11. One of the very first things you learn when you open up your heart to Celebrate Recovery is that you can't get help for your problem until you admit that you have one.
12. So, would you join me right now in admitting to someone around you your weakness? Turn to someone and say I get weak. I get tired. I get weary.
13. What I would like to do this morning is skip all the way down to verse 31. **Isaiah 40:31** but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
14. I would like to just pray for everyone and believe for and expect the renewing of our strength. And we are going to do that in a bit.
15. But what I also want is for us to experience more than just a jolt of energy or a good feeling that only lasts until we make it home.
16. My desire is that we experience a change of our mindset that will allow us to have ongoing renewal of our strength, and not just a one-time event.
17. And in order to do that we have to apply truth to our weakness so we can address the real root of the issue.
18. The overall heading of Isaiah chapter 40 is comfort for God's people. In the last chapter Isaiah has prophesied captivity and punishment for the children of Israel because they have rejected God.

19. So now Isaiah wants to encourage them by offering them some comfort. And the pinnacle of that comfort is verse 31. **Isaiah 40:31** but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
20. I have shared before that anytime you see a statement, or a verse begin with the word but, you know that what is coming next is in contrast to what was spoken before.
21. I believe with all of my heart that the Lord wants to renew the strength of everyone who will meet Him on his terms, but we have to know what his terms are. We have to know what will hinder or rob the renewing of our strength.
22. So, let's look at several tools of the enemy to hinder the renewal of our strength.

Believing that God doesn't care.

1. **Isaiah 40:27** Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?
2. One of the great lies of Satan is that he is constantly trying to convince us that the God we serve is a God who doesn't really care about us.
3. And when we attempt to live for him but secretly believe that God really doesn't care, it will be very difficult for our strength to be renewed.
4. Isaiah points out two roadblocks to the children of Israel receiving this comfort he offered.
5. The nation of Israel believed their way was hidden from God. They believed that God really didn't see them.
6. They believed that God wasn't really concerned with what they were going through.
7. Kind of like the phrase, out of sight out of mind.
8. And yet, God has placed this longing and this hunger inside all of us to be loved and cared for and listened to.
9. So the nation of Israel, even though they secretly believed God didn't really see them were continually crying out to God asking him to deliver them from the hardship they were facing.
10. But because what they asked for didn't happen when they wanted it to, they came to another conclusion. God hears me but he is ignoring

me. My case is disregarded by my God.

11. The amplified makes an even stronger statement. **Isaiah 40:27** And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God"? (AMP)
12. God, you don't see me. And when I cry out to you, you ignore me. And as a result, I am not getting the justice I deserve.
13. They had a false mindset about how God viewed and related to them, and so, that led to the second hinderance to their strength being renewed.

They related to God as if he was powerless.

1. **Isaiah 40:28** Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.
2. Isaiah was saying, you think you know how God thinks, but the truth is no-one can fathom his understanding.
3. In other words, you are misunderstanding God's motives and his power.
4. Satan, the thief and the liar that he is, is constantly bombarding our minds with falsehoods. Lies. And a couple of the biggest is that God doesn't care about you and he is ignoring you, and the reason for that is because he doesn't have any power. Because if he did, surely he would do what I want.
5. But we have to know that what God does and how he does it is not the best indicator of who God really is.
6. Isaiah says, let me remind you of who God really is.
7. He is the everlasting God. He has no beginning, and he has no end. We can seek to know God all of our lives and then into eternity and there will never be an end to his greatness.
8. He is the creator of the ends of the earth. We just live on the earth, but the God we serve is the one who created this earth. He took nothing and he made something.
9. God will not grow tired or weary. He is not like us. He is not limited by the same things that limit us.
10. Just like our video this morning, it is here that we must declare truth.
11. It is here that we must combat the lies of the enemy with the truth of

who God is.

12. Satan can argue with us, but he can't stand against the truth.
13. Can we practice that for just a moment? Would you say these phrases from the word of God with me?
14. And let's make it personally.
15. **My God is the everlasting God!** (repeat)
16. **My God is the creator of the ends of the earth!** (repeat)
17. **My God does not grow tired or weary!** (repeat)
18. **I don't fully understand him, but I will trust him!** (repeat)
19. A third thing that can hinder the renewing of our strength is...

Denial.

1. **Isaiah 40:29** He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
2. John 16:24 tells us that we only receive what we ask for, and we only ask for what we acknowledge.
3. Let me tell you what verse 29 doesn't say. It doesn't say he gives strength to the strong and increases the power of the powerful.
4. It says he gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
5. If we deny our weariness and we deny our weakness, then we will not be able to receive the very solutions that we need.
6. It is only when we confess our weariness and confess our weakness that the Lord can give us the strength and the power that we need.
7. And who needs strength and power?

Everyone needs strength and power.

1. **Isaiah 40:30** Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;
2. Becoming weary and tired is not a young thing or an old thing or a middle-aged thing.
3. It is not a female thing or a male thing.
4. It is not a working man's thing or a retired thing, it is a human thing.
5. If you are human. Do we have any human beings here this morning?

If you are human, there is no way to avoid the tiredness and the weariness of this life.

6. And when we become tired and weary, we become much more susceptible to failure.
7. Again, I want to read this verse from the Amplified Bible. **Isaiah 40:30**
Even youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, (AMP)
8. That phrase stumble badly really puts things into perspective.
9. Have you ever stumbled badly? I know I have.
10. But then comes verse 31. **Isaiah 40:31** But those who wait for the LORD [*who expect, look for, and hope in Him*] Will gain new strength *and* renew their power; They will lift up their wings [*and rise up close to God*] like eagles [*rising toward the sun*]; They will run and not become weary, They will walk and not grow tired. (AMP)
11. I love The amplified Bible's description of the word wait or hope.
12. Those who expect, look for, and hope in him.
13. What does it look like to expect, look for, and hope in?
14. First of all, expecting and looking for and hoping for is not a one-time event, it is a lifestyle.
15. I can't just expect once, and look for once and hope in Him once. I believe it is an ongoing state of being.
16. As I am running this race I am expecting and looking for and putting my hope in him.
17. As I am walking the pathway of this life I am expecting and looking for and hoping in him. And if I will do those things as I am going along, the Lord God himself will guard our lives against the pitfalls of weariness and tiredness.

Conclusion:

1. As I am running the race and walking this path, if we will...
 - Trust that God sees and hears us.
 - Relate to the Lord as the everlasting God and creator of the ends of the earth who never grows tired and weary.
 - Admit our lack of strength and power as we go along, then usually our lives will be guarded, not against ever being tired or weary, but against the kind of exhaustion that leads to stumbling

and falling back into old patterns of sin.

2. Now. What I have just described to you is the ideal. But the ideal is not something I have ever achieved immediately. It is something I have to practice on a continual basis.
3. It is something that I fail at sometimes. It is something I need grace and forgiveness from the Lord when I falter.
4. And that is exactly what the Lord offers us.
5. Pray.
6. As we close this morning, I am going to ask all of us to put ourselves in a position for the Lord to transform us and the way we think.
7. So, let's begin with confession.
8. Lord, I am not perfect. I don't have it all together. I get weary and tired sometimes and I misunderstand you.
9. But by faith I declare that you know who I am and you know where I am and you hear me when I cry out to you.
10. By faith I declare that you are the everlasting God who never gets tired or weary.
11. By faith I declare that you are a good father who gives good gifts to his children.
12. By faith I believe that as I wait on you and hope in you that you will renew my strength.
13. Are you in need of renewed strength today? Let's pray together.