*Wednesday, November 27, 2013*

**Contrary**

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor 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. (KJV)

Finally, from this point forward we are going to take the hill, kick some butt, and take names later, right? We are going to put on the whole armor of God that is Spiritual so that we don’t get taken back down by the tricks of the enemy. This battle takes place in the mind; and without a daily renewing of the mind so that we can have the same mind as Christ, we will let down our guard and take one to the vitals which can have a deadly effect if not dealt with. When one falls from grace they end up wrestling with flesh and blood; in other words, they allowed the enemy to attach a physical face to the issue so they end up trying to justify their lower nature. Just the foolishness the enemy likes to see God’s people fall for. In fact this kind of wrestling is just as fake as the kind we see on TV.

2 Corinthians 12:1-4 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knows;) such a one caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knows;) 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which is not lawful for a man to utter. (KJV)

Paul was a man who God used to pen a good portion of the epistles, letters written to the New Testament church. He speaks of a man who had an out of body heavenly experience, which I believe pertains to him having been stoned and left for dead.

2 Corinthians 12:5-7 Of such a one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. 6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he sees me to be, or that he hears of me. 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. (KJV)

Many today seek their own glory based on works, or whatever nonsense they think impresses God. Paul actually took pleasure in his infirmities or shortcomings because it kept him humble. After seeing the things he saw he realized that this is a tough act to follow and will only work by grace through faith and definitely not of his works. I have had a messenger of satan buffet me many times trying to remind me of my past. I have used that as a plus because it keeps me humble, realizing how foolish my own thoughts and ways really are.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (KJV)

Sounds a bit contrary doesn’t it; especially in a world where macho is portrayed as being a real man. The moral of today’s study is that you will never realize the power and strength for yourself until you realize how weak and incomplete you really are on your own. When I am weak that is when I am really strong in Him.

Dearly loved, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. God bless and have a very prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.