

Good morning! Have you discovered that sometimes you get weary? I have! A few weeks ago we looked at how we can deal with our own weariness, by trusting God and exchanging our own strength for His strength. This is a great and precious promise--- but it's pretty hard to do. I always seem to want to go just a little further on my own strength but guess what? The gas in the tank will only go so far. We need God's strength if we are going to truly minister God's grace. Otherwise, we are just operating on religious will power. If you want to move in faith, you can't do it on your own. But there is another aspect to this issue of weariness, an aspect you may not have considered. Let's read today's passages together this morning:

So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong. **Heb. 12:12-13**

With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you." And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! **Isa. 35:3-6**

I find these parallel passages really interesting. It turns out I'm not the only one who gets weary and needs to be strengthened--- God wants us to strengthen others, too. Yes, we need to take a new grip with our own tired hands and strengthen our own weak knees, but we are also called to "*strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees.*" In other words, God calls us to encourage others! We must speak encouragement to those around us who have fearful hearts. As we do this, God promises to do amazing things: "*When he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy.*" Do you want some of that? So does everyone else! You and I can become bearers of God's promise of renewal and bring encouragement to others. Maybe you know someone who is weary. They may be weary from emotional turmoil (fearful hearts) --- sometimes that kind of weariness is more tiring than physical labor---or they may be weary from a physically demanding schedule. Either way, let me encourage you this morning to be a person who brings strength to weary people. Look for ways to encourage, to come alongside, to speak words of hope. Look around you today to see others who may need some encouragement and bring it to them...in Jesus' Name!