

## Exchange Example: Strength

“To whom then will you liken Me That I should be his equal?” says the Holy One. . . Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary (Isaiah 41:25,28-31).

Isaiah first compares the incomparable power of God to our feeble power, describing how God never becomes weary or tired, compared to our faintness. He does not leave us there, however, but instead continues by reminding us that those who trust in and wait upon our God can operate in the same power with which God operates! They will never grow weary or tired. “They will *gain new* strength,” literally, “they will *exchange* their strength.” They will exchange their feeble strength for the power that God provides -- God’s own power!

This exchange of strength occurs on both the spiritual and physical planes. In a spiritual context, Paul said to the Ephesian church, “Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of *His* might (Ephesians 6:10).” We can never be strong enough in our own power, but with God’s power the options are limitless, the victories endless.

On the physical plane, examples are easy to see. 1 Kings 18:45-46 describes how Elijah outran the chariots of the king, which were pulled by the fastest horses in the land, but not until God’s hand, or power, came upon him: “Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. Then the hand of the Lord was on Elijah, and he girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel.” No man could have outrun the king’s steeds using his natural strength. But Elijah entrusted himself unto God’s hand and operated with His power.

Another example is Samson, who was just like any other ordinary man when the Spirit of God was not upon him, which he discovered to his great dismay when Delilah tempted him to disobey. But when the Spirit of God came upon him, he operated in God’s supernatural strength. Judges 14:5-6 is one example: “a young lion came roaring against him. *And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him*, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young

goat, though he had nothing in his hand (NKJV).”

Yet, at one point, Samson became thirsty, weary and in despair (Judges 15:18-19). Though he had tasted of the power of God, he, often like us, did not yet know how to fully draw upon all the blessings of the covenant.