Essentials For A Strong Church
Eph. 6:10

Introduction:
- A. Strength admired - weakness pitied.
  1. National.
  2. Military
  3. Mental.
  4. Physical.
- B. Church needs to be strong - individually & collectively.
  1. Strong *in the Lord.* (v. 10)
  2. To withstand evil. (vv. 11,12).
- C. Need to be aware of essentials and non-essentials to strength.

Discussion:
- **I. Things That Are *Not Essential* For A Strong Church.**
  - A. Numbers (Duet. 7:6,7; Judge 7:2ff).
    1. Corinth had one too many members. (1 Cor. 5:13)
    2. Carnal attraction and appeasement to keep numbers up.
  - B. Wealth. (Rev. 2:9; 3:17).
  - C. Worldly Wisdom. (1 Cor. 1:20-2:5).
    1. Strength not measured by educational level of members.
    2. Strength not measured by percentage of professionals, etc.
    3. Strength not measured by "educated ministry".
  - D. Popularity. (Acts 28:22; 1 Cor. 1:26,27).
- **II. Things That Are *Essential* For A Strong Church.**
  - A. Whole Armor Of God. (Eph. 6:10-18).
    1. Armor for protection and fighting.
    2. One offensive weapon (sword), rest are defensive.
  - B. Loyalty to God.
    1. To *His* Word. (2 John 9; Ps. 119:11; 2 Tim. 3:16,17).
    2. To *His* work. (1 Cor. 15:58; 16:10).
  - C. Genuinely conversion.
    1. Rather than mere profession. (Mt. 7:21).
    2. Rather than lukewarm. (Lk. 9:62; Rev. 3:14-15)
    3. Priorities straight (Matt. 6:33)
  - D. Purged (Eph. 5:25-27)
    1. Initially purged at baptism (v. 26).
    2. Kept purged by :
       a. Keeping self unspotted (Jas. 1:27).
       b. Confessing our sins (1 John 1:9).
       c. Purging out "old leaven." (1 Cor. 5:7)
  - E. Dissatisfaction. (cf. Phil. 3:13,14; Heb. 6:1)
    1. Not merely dissatisfied - discontent.
       a. Not happy with God's way.
       b. Not happy with God's people.
       c. Not happy with God's providence.
    2. Not satisfied with status quo.
       a. Improve evangelistic efforts.
       b. Improve edification efforts.

            c. Improve personal growth.

Conclusion:
- A. If church to be strong, members need to be strong.
- B. If church and members to be strong -- must be "in the Lord."