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## ***Prepared to Serve: Strengthened to Serve***

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, January 13, 2019*

Spiritual Strength Is *NOT* Based on  
What I Did in The Past

Spiritual Strength *IS* Based on  
How I Am Acting *IN FAITH* Today

### **God Does Not Want Me to Give Up or Give in To the Pressures of Life**

*“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” *Galatians 6:9, ESV**

Do Not Give Up

All Your Hard Work Will Pay Off

We Want A Specific Answer

God Wants A Specific Faith

We Want A Time Limit

God's Wants Us to Grow Strong in Our Faith

### **Ways I Can Build My Spiritual Strength**

#### **1. Saturate Myself in The Word of God**

*“But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” *Matthew 4:4, NLT**

My Spiritual Strength Comes from The Closeness  
of My Relationship with God

*You Will Find God in His Word*

*“For the word of God is living and active...” *Hebrews 4:12, ESV**

## 2. Take a Step of Faith

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5, ESV

A Human Only Perspective Limits My Possibilities

## 3. Serve Others

“After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet.” John 13:12–14, NLT

Serving is Meant to Glorify God

## 4. Turn Each Worry Over to God

“Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.” Psalm 55:22, ESV

Do This Each Time A Worry Crops Up

## 5. Keep My Priorities Straight

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:33, NLT

Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing

## 6. Make Prayer & Meditation A Habit

“pray without ceasing,” 1 Thessalonians 5:17, ESV

“And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.” Luke 18:1, ESV

When I Keep Saturated in The Things of God,  
The Problems of Life Become Manageable

